Bengaluru Thursday, January 22, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 22 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Abhishek's 84 guides India to 48-run win over NZ

Page 18

Business

Deepinder Goyal resigns as Group CEO of Eternal

P.15

Nation P.11

MNS backs Shinde Sena in Kalyan-Dombivli

Sports

ICC Board votes against BCB request P.18

World

Iran warns US of retaliation P.14

Guv refuses to address session; govt may go to court

Showdown in K'taka

- Governor wants some parts of speech to be dropped
- They relate to restoring the MGNREGA, Centre-state relations, "injustice" faced by K'taka due to Centre's policies, losses caused under 15th Finance Commission
- Govt ready to remove only two sentences critical of VB-G RAM (G) Act
- Adv General rushes to Delhi, signalling that govt might take legal course if Guv doesn't turn up

Gehlot against 11 paras that are critical of Modi regime in speech drafted by Cong govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

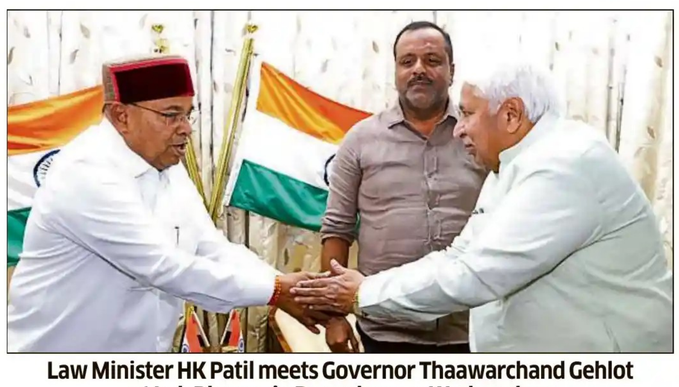
In an unprecedented confrontation on Wednesday, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot refused to address the joint session of the legislature on Thursday if 11 paragraphs of the speech drafted by the Congress government, which contain criticism of the Modi administration, are not dropped.

The session has been convened expressly to discuss the repealing of MGNREGA by the Union government, and the ruling Congress is likely to attack the Centre over the new VB-G RAM (G) Act.

Late on Wednesday night, the state government agreed to only remove two sentences critical of the VB-G RAM (G) Act.

Sources said Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty has left for Delhi, signalling a potential legal battle if Gehlot does not turn up for the session.

The confrontation came a day after Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi walked out of the Assembly without reading his speech and his Kerala counterpart Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was accused by the LDF government of altering certain parts of the speech.



Law Minister HK Patil meets Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Duty of Guv to read speech: Horatti

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said it is the duty of the Governor to read the speech drafted by the government while addressing the session. Referring to the row over Kerala Governor altering the speech drafted by the LDF regime, Horatti said it may not occur in Karnataka.

Details on Page 5

Gehlot's refusal to address the session prompted Law & Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil to rush to Lok Bhavan.

"He [the Governor] has suggested that we drop 11 paragraphs. We will naturally discuss some modifications in such situations. However, it will be opposite to the decisions of the government to drop any paragraph. We didn't feel it was appropriate to drop some paragraphs," Patil told reporters.

Patil said the 11 paragraphs relate to restoring the MGNREGA, Centre-state relations, the "injustice" faced by Karnataka due to the Union government's policies, losses caused due to the devolutions under the 15th Finance Commission and so on.

"We have to at least subtly show the problems with the injustices in the 15th commission, right? Shouldn't we raise our voice against the VB-G RAM (G) Act, which replaced the MGNREGA and took away the right to work? Our panchayats used to decide what work had to be done. That right has been taken away and the power has been centralised and kept in Delhi. How is it right to say we shouldn't speak against it through the Governor?" Patil argued.

▸ Guv, Page 10

> The Governor reading the speech during the commencement of the session is mandatory as per Article 176. If they proceed without the Governor, it will be an open question if that decision will be valid
>
> **B V ACHARYA**
> Former A-G

> Under Article 176, it's a constitutional duty of the Governor to read the speech. If he fails to do it, the Governor can be censured by the House. What he is reading is opinion of the Council of Ministers. He isn't an agent of the Centre
>
> **RAVIVERMA KUMAR**
> Former A-G

> If the Congress has written a mandatory rule in its own constitution that Governors must voice the government's bundle of lies, that's a different matter. But there's no such provision in the Indian Constitution
>
> **R ASHOKA,** LoP

Pilgrim killed in leopard attack near MM Hills

MYSURU, DHNS: A 33-year-old pilgrim who was travelling on a padayatra to Male Mahadeshwara Hill temple was killed in a leopard attack in Chamarajanagar district's Hanur taluk on Wednesday.

Praveen

Praveen, a resident of Cheeranahalli in Mandya district, was on his way to the hill shrine along with six others during the early hours of Wednesday, when a leopard attacked them near Rangaswamy Oddu.

The animal dragged Praveen into a bush and he died of severe bleeding as a result of the assault, said the police.

Details on Page 7

US will not use force to take Greenland, says Trump

DAVOS, PTI: President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the US will not use force to take Greenland and stressed that only America can protect the mineral-rich island, which is at the centre of escalating geopolitical tensions with Europe.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, Trump also said that the US is booming, but Europe is "not heading in the right direction".

"I have tremendous respect for people of Greenland and Denmark, but only the US can secure Greenland," Trump said in his 70-minute-long speech during which he launched a blistering attack on NATO allies on a range of issues, including tariffs, environment and immigration.

His speech was followed by a question-and-answer session.

"We fought for beautiful Denmark, which is not a land, but a big piece of ice, cold and poorly located. It is a very small ask compared to what we have given them for many, many decades. We were stupid to give it back," Trump said, staking claims over the region.

Donald Trump

"People thought I would use force. I don't have to use force. I don't want to use force. I won't use force."

▸ Trump, Page 10
Related reports, P11 & 14

Illegal mining absolute crime: SC on Aravalli

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that illegal mining is an absolute crime as it leads to irreversible losses and devastating consequences even as the court emphasised that it will constitute a committee of domain experts to undertake a holistic examination of mining and related issues in the Aravallis.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said the panel will work directly under its supervision.

The bench said the directions should be meticulously complied with, and there are some people who are incorrigibly involved in illegal mining, and the government should address this issue.

Details on Page 13

BACK FOOT

RCB reluctant to play at Chinnaswamy Stadium

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite the state government's conditional support, Royal Challengers Bengaluru pointed to unspecified "grey areas" and remained reluctant to play their home matches of the upcoming Indian Premier League at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, which is undergoing massive renovation work.

Addressing the media here on Wednesday, Karnataka State Cricket Association president Venkatesh Prasad, while elaborating on the steps taken to meet the conditional nod to host matches at the stadium, admitted the Bengaluru franchise had some "apprehension" about playing matches in the city.

Though Prasad did not elaborate on RCB's apprehension, the franchise released a statement expressing their specific concern.

KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad (left) at Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday. PTI

"While our desire is always to play at our home ground, in front of our ardent fans, we want to be thorough in our commitment to understand further the conditions applicable to host matches here and the measures taken to ensure fans' safety protocols are met," RCB stated even as they welcomed the Karnataka government's decision to allow matches at Chinnaswamy and appreciated KSCA's efforts.

"From our preliminary conversations, there are still a few grey areas that need to be looked into," the franchise stated.

▸ RCB, Page 10

Structural changes

KSCA is making changes to Chinnaswamy Stadium to meet the Expert Committee's conditions. Queen's Road will have only two gates, each six metres wide, to ensure smooth movement of spectators and prevent traffic congestion. Several structures will be flattened to create holding areas for crowds while ramps and lifts have been planned to prevent crowding. The B ground and tennis courts will also be used to hold crowds.

River

INDIE

SCI

OF SCOOTERS

14" Alloys
14-inch alloy wheels front and rear

55 Litres
Lockable storage

18 Degrees
Gradeability

Book a Test Ride

← Bengaluru

Tumakuru →

Bengaluru
J P Nagar 9240 217 106
Yelahanka 9240 217 107
Indiranagar 9240 217 101
Rajajinagar 9240 217 109
Basavanagudi 9240 217 111
Kengeri 9240 270 819
Hebbal 9240 217 104

Tumakuru
S S Puram 9240 203 410

rideriver.com

trawelmart™
(Govt. of Tourism Recg. Tour Operator)
IATA Accredited Agent 14376740

YOUR DREAM EUROPE TOUR
BEGINS WITH TRAWEL MART!

8 Nights 9 Days
Starts From
₹ 2,20,000/-
T&C Apply

TRAWELMART WORLD TOURS PVT. LTD. | IATA
080 4642 7999

17 Years of Trusted Legacy in Global Travel | 3 Lakh+ Happy Clients Across the World
Awarded "ET Excellent Travel Company" for 3 Consecutive Years

Golden Europe 17 Nights 18 Days	₹ 1,35,000 + € 2,650
England & Scotland, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Vatican	

Splendor Europe		Spain & Portugal		Best of Europe	
England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Italy & The Vatican		Madrid, Toledo, Porto, Fatima, Lisbon, Seville, Cordoba, Granada,Valencia, & Barcelona		France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy & Vatican	
11 Days	₹ 1,25,000 + € 1,600	12 Days	₹ 1,15,000 + € 1,900	12 Days	₹ 1,05,000 + € 1,750
Eastern Europe		**Great Britain**		**Scandinavia**	
Munich, Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest & Gelsenkirchen		Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Windermere, Manchester, Oxford & London		Helsinki, Stockholm, Norway In Nutshell, Oslo & Copenhagen	
11 Days	₹ 1,15,000 + € 1,775	11 Days	₹ 1,15,000 + € 2,200	11 Days	₹ 1,35,000 + € 2,150

T&C Apply

GROUP TOURS

Dubai 6 Days ₹ 98,000/-

Singapore & Malaysia 7 Days ₹ 1,15,000/-

Vietnam 8 Days ₹ 1,22,000/-

Singapore, Malaysia & Thailand 11 Days ₹ 1,55,000/-

Vietnam & Cambodia 11 Days ₹ 1,65,000/-

Egypt 9 Days ₹ 1,85,000/-

South Africa 10 Days ₹ 2,25,000/-

Japan 8 Days ₹ 2,89,000/-

Australia 10 Days ₹ 3,50,000/-

Explore China 9 Days @ ₹ 1,85,000/-
Beijing • Zhangjiajie • Shanghai : Top Highlights Covered

2023 - 2024 - 2025
ET ACHIVER AWARD
Excellent Travel Company
Corporate and Family Tour

T&C Apply

WHATSAPP WEBSITE

CUSTOMIZED TOUR PACKAGES

Malaysia 5 Days ₹ 38,000/-	Sri Lanka 6 Days ₹ 38,000/-	Thailand 7 Days ₹ 42,000/-	Kazakhstan 6 Days ₹ 48,000/-
Bali 6 Days ₹ 48,000/-	Mauritius 7 Days ₹ 49,000/-	Georgia 6 Days ₹ 58,000/-	Maldives 5 Days ₹ 62,000/-
Singapore 5 Days ₹ 79,000/-	Hong Kong & Macau 6 Days ₹ 83,000/-	Jordan 8 Days ₹ 93,000/-	Kenya 8 Days ₹ 1,10,000/-
Seychelles 7 Days ₹ 1,35,000/-	New Zealand 9 Days ₹ 1,50,000/-	South Korea 7 Days ₹ 1,80,000/-	Finland & Sweden 11 Days ₹ 2,60,000/-

T&C Apply

www.trawelmart.com www.trawelmart.com www.trawelmart.com www.trawelmart.com www.trawelmart.com www.trawelmart.com

enquiry@trawelmart.com | 080 4642 7999

Bengaluru No.357, Trawel Mart Gruha, 10th B Main Rd, Near cosmopolitan club, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru 560011

Malleshwaram 1st Temple Street, 20, 10th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560003.

HSR Layout 9th Main Rd, Sector 6, HSR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102

Man held for stalking Insta influencer

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police have arrested a man from Haryana for allegedly harassing and stalking a city-based fitness and nutrition influencer.

The arrested person is Sudhir Kumar, 27.

Police said Sudhir was following the 34-year-old victim on Instagram. The woman is also a native of Haryana, but has lived in Bengaluru for nearly 15 years. Investigations revealed that Kumar sent the woman obscene and sexually charged messages on the social media platform. The harassment continued on WhatsApp after he got her phone number.

On January 12, Kumar travelled from Haryana to Bengaluru, visited her gym and inquired about her. She then approached the South Women Police, who arrested the suspect.

Officials have urged victims to promptly approach the police if they face such harassment or stalking.

Online trading scam costs senior MNC official Rs 5.14 cr

Manipulated app showed victim Rs 19-crore 'profit'

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A senior executive at a multinational company in Bengaluru lost Rs 5.14 crore in an online investment scam, police said.

The 58-year-old RT Nagar resident joined several fraudulent WhatsApp groups — LKP INTERNAL MEMBERS GROUP, LKP VIP 118/ONE TO ONE SERVICE GROUP and LKP ADVISORY GROUP-1 — in November, seeking investment opportunities.

He was approached by Deepa and Dinesh K Waghela, who police believe used fake identities.

He was asked to download a fake app called 'LKPNHWL' to trade and was given a link — https://www.ilkpms.cc — for transferring money.

Between November 12 and January 7, he transferred Rs 5,14,85,000 in multiple transactions. The fake trading app showed he had gained Rs 19 crore.

"A key part of the fraud is using manipulated apps to convince victims they are making profits. These are paper trades; no investments are carried out," a police investigator said.

When the victim tried to make a withdrawal, he was asked to pay Rs 2 crore as tax. Realising the fraud, he contacted the North Cybercrime Police. An FIR was registered on January 12.

"We have informed the Criminal Investigation Department as the sum lost is over Rs 3 crore. Until they take over, jurisdictional police are continuing the probe," a senior police officer said.

Senior citizen loses Rs 95 lakh in fake IPO scheme

In a similar case registered by the North Cybercrime Police, a 69-year-old man lost Rs 95 lakh after he believed he was investing in Initial Public Offerings. The scamsters used two fake apps — ANGVANPRO APP and ANGEL ONE — to manipulate trades.

The victim was shown to have made Rs 1.33 crore profit on a Rs 75-lakh investment. When he tried to make a withdrawal, he was asked to pay Rs 18 lakh as tax. He transferred a total of Rs 95 lakh between November 15 and January 12.

The FIR was registered the following day.

Sudha Murty warns of Deepfake use

In a post on X, author and philanthropist Sudha Murty wrote: "I want to alert you to fake videos circulating online that falsely use my image and voice to promote financial schemes and investments. These are deepfakes created without my knowledge or consent.

"Please do not make any financial decisions based on these fraudulent videos. I urge you to verify information through official channels and report any such content you encounter.

"Stay vigilant and stay safe. Jai Hind!"

Lankan flies to UK using Briton's boarding pass

He will be deported to Sri Lanka for illegal entry

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru airport police has registered a case after immigration officials, along with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, caught a UK citizen for handing over his boarding pass to a Sri Lankan national, allowing him to travel to London illegally.

The arrested suspect is Kandiah Rajagopal, 52, a businessman from Northolt, West London, who was originally scheduled to travel to London via Virgin Atlantic flight VS-347 at 7.20 am on January 18.

However, he was instead at the SHA (Security Hold Area) of the International Departure section of the Bengaluru airport. CISF personnel noticed him and informed immigration officials, and he was detained.

At 5.30 pm, Rajagopal was brought to the immigration section. Further inquiries revealed that another person, Sharusan Kunasekaran, a Sri Lankan citizen, had travelled using Rajagopal's boarding pass.

Kunasekaran was supposed to travel to Singapore on IndiGo flight 6E-1009 at 10.20 am on January 18.

"There is a suspicion that the UK citizen gave his boarding pass to Sri Lankan citizen Sharusan Kunasekaran, and it is found that the said Sharusan Kunasekaran travelled to London, UK, via Virgin Atlantic flight number VS-347 using the same boarding pass," noted the FIR, quoting the complainant immigration officer.

A full-scale inquiry is underway to identify the motive behind the exchange of the boarding pass, and whether there was a possible human trafficking or a job fraud angle, according to police sources.

Sources said that following the alert, Kunasekaran was detained in London and would be deported to Sri Lanka for illegal entry.

FIR against beauty clinic over Insta-promoted treatment

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 27-year-old woman has filed a police complaint against a Bengaluru-based beauty clinic, alleging that their cosmetic treatments promoted on Instagram caused severe damage to her skin.

The complainant, an assistant professor at a private college, told the police that she came across Instagram reels advertising "100% guaranteed beauty solutions" for skin issues such as pimples, pigmentation and tanning.

The reels were uploaded from an account named "charming_chaithanya", which claimed to offer professional cosmetology treatments and has around 70,000 followers.

Trusting the claims, the woman visited Glow Up Beauty Care Clinic in Papareddypalya, Nagarabhavi, on October 7, 2025. She said Chaitanya examined her skin, conducted a patch test and assured her of a complete cure.

She was prescribed four cosmetic products — CS Glow and Hydrating Moisturiser, CS Sunscreen Lotion, CS Night Cream and CS Brightening Face Wash — and charged Rs 17,000, which she paid via UPI to a bank account in the name of Akash, the complaint stated.

Within days of using the products, the woman allegedly developed severe itching, burning sensation and facial swelling. When she informed the clinic, she was advised to discontinue two products and continue using the remaining ones. However, her condition worsened further despite following the revised instructions.

The issue escalated on November 21, when the woman revisited the clinic seeking an explanation. She alleged that Shiva, Chaitanya's husband, verbally abused and threatened her, refused to resolve the issue, and that the couple humiliated her and forced her out of the premises.

In her complaint, the woman said the clinic misled customers through false social media advertisements, prescribed steroid-based cosmetic products without medical qualifications, endangered her health and cheated her of money.

Annapoorneshwari Nagar police registered an FIR.

NOSTALGIC RETURN

Double decker buses roll back into Bengaluru after 28 years

BENGALURU, DHNS

Double-decker buses are returning to Bengaluru for the first time since 1997, as the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) launched its 'hop-on, hop-off' sightseeing tour on Wednesday.

The service starts from Ravindra Kalakshetra on JC Road and travels through Corporation Circle, Hudson Circle, Kasturba Road and Vidhana Soudha and major city landmarks, including M Chinnaswamy Stadium, High Court of Karnataka, Town Hall and Visvesvaraya Science and Technological Museum, before returning to Ravindra Kalakshetra.

Tourism Minister HK Patil inaugurated the service on Wednesday.

Three buses are being used for the guided tour, which will operate on a short pilot loop before expanding to cover 26 landmarks. "For a long time, these buses were used only during Mysuru Dasara. This initiative puts them to use throughout the year. There are six double-decker buses in total. Based on patronage, we may add more," said Prashant Kumar Mishra, Managing Director, KSTDC.

The Ambaari buses were launched on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

The Ambaari double-decker buses each carry 40 passengers — 20 on the air-conditioned lower deck and 20 on the open-top upper deck. They will run five trips a day. A full-day pass costs Rs 180 and can be booked online at kstdc.co.in.

Woman arrested for stabbing drunk husband to death

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 42-year-old woman was arrested by the Bommanahalli police for allegedly murdering her husband, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested is Lakhsmi, a resident of Hongasandra. Police said the incident occurred on Tuesday night.

The couple has three girls, all married.

Investigations revealed that the deceased, Murugesh (50), was a daily wager and used to harass Lakshmi after coming home drunk.

He did the same on the day of the incident, leading the woman to stab him in the chest in a fit of rage.

Murugesh died on the way to the hospital due to blood loss.

Further investigation is underway, police said.

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA
VICTORIS
ICOTY
INDIAN CAR OF THE YEAR 2026
INDIAN CAR OF THE YEAR 2026
VICTORIS
INTRODUCTORY PRICE
₹10.50 LAKH*
LIMITED PERIOD ONLY
LEVEL 2 ADAS WITH 10+ FEATURES
DOLBY ATMOS SPATIAL SOUND EXPERIENCE
SMART POWERED TAILGATE WITH GESTURE CONTROL
64-COLOUR AMBIENT LIGHTING
AVAILABLE IN STRONG HYBRID
SCAN AND CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU
E-BOOK TODAY AT WWW.MARUTISUZUKI.COM
CONTACT US AT 1800-102-1800
ICOTY Partner Media
Applicable T&C available at your nearest dealership. Creative visualization. Car colour may vary due to printing on paper. Images used are for illustration purposes only. ADAS features are for driver assistance only. Driver is responsible for safe and attentive driving. Features may vary by model/conditions. For details on functioning of safety features including airbags, kindly refer to the Owner's Manual. Trademarks/logos being displayed belong to the respective owners. Infinity is the trademark of HARMAN International Industries, Incorporated. Dolby, Dolby Audio, Dolby Atmos and the double-D symbol are registered trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation. Amazon, Alexa, and all related marks are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. *Price for ex-showroom Delhi for Lxi (Petrol Variant) is ₹10 49 900/-.
VICTORIS

Confusion over electoral rolls as SEC delays correction process

Commission may fully adopt ECI voter lists

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The State Election Commission (SEC), which has published the draft electoral rolls for 369 wards of Bengaluru's five municipal corporations, is yet to begin the process of enrolling new voters or allowing corrections to the rolls.

Although the SEC had announced that citizens could seek modifications by submitting Form 4 (addition of name), Form 5 (objections), Form 6 (corrections), Form 7 (change of residence) and Form 8 (deletion of name), these forms are currently not available on the SEC website.

The delay has led to confusion among voters keen to participate in the civic polls, scheduled between May 25 and June 30. Even executives manning the SEC's helplines are reportedly unsure about the procedure for seeking changes to the draft rolls.

Sources said the SEC is making last-minute preparations to adopt the electoral rolls prepared by the Election Commission of India (ECI) instead of compiling an independent voter database. However, the commission has not officially communicated its decision.

If the SEC adopts the ECI rolls, the process of seeking additions and corrections would be easier for citizens, as it is entirely online. In contrast, the SEC had earlier said modifications would have to be submitted manually to Block Level Officers (BLOs) — a process widely seen as cumbersome.

The delay has led to confusion among voters keen to participate in the civic polls, scheduled between May 25 and June 30. Even executives manning the State Election Commission's helplines are reportedly unsure about the procedure for seeking changes to the draft rolls.

In November, the SEC had directed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to prepare fresh electoral rolls within 110 days, instead of adopting the Assembly election rolls.

So far, the GBA has completed 12 of the 19 tasks, with the final ward-wise electoral rolls scheduled for publication on March 16. At the same time, the ECI is carrying out its annual revision of electoral rolls.

GBA plan soon

Sources in the GBA said a communication on any change in plan is likely in the next couple of days.

However, the house-to-house verification by BLOs, scheduled to begin on January 20, has been put on hold.

Ramachandran R, Special Commissioner (Elections), GBA, did not respond to calls seeking comment.

50-bed trauma centre at KC General Hospital by May

Blood bank, DNB programmes also in the pipeline

BENGALURU, DHNS

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Wednesday that a new trauma unit will be inaugurated at KC General Hospital, Malleswaram, in March.

The 50-bed trauma centre will serve North Bengaluru and nearby areas. It will have 14 High Dependency beds, 15 ICU beds and two operation theatres.

Another building is under construction for a blood bank and Diplomate of National Board (DNB) academic programmes. A maternity and child health wing will open in a new building by year-end, he added.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

"We are addressing staff shortages and will appoint doctors on contract, if needed," he said.

The minister reviewed issues at the hospital and visited the Jayadeva Heart Unit, paediatric ICU and other departments to gather feedback from patients.

On the upcoming state budget, he said the state is facing economic challenges and losses due to GST.

The central government is not approving new schemes.

He said pending funds for many schemes have not been released. Karnataka contributes a large share of the nation's tax, yet the Centre is treating the state unfairly. "We are raising our voice, but there is no response from the Centre," he said.

He alleged the Centre had treated states unfairly on MGNREGA. The Centre's share was 90%, now reduced to 60%.

"The scheme was introduced by the then Congress government for the benefit of the people, but in the past 11 years, the central government has not introduced any such scheme," he said.

Christ varsity holds history alumni reunion

BENGALURU, DHNS: Christ (Deemed to be) University will host a history alumni reunion for former HEP and KHP students.

The event is on January 26 at 2 pm at the central campus on Hosur Road.

The reunion aims to honour the department's intellectual traditions and foster dialogue across batches. Alumni can revisit formative experiences and renew friendships, reaffirming their connection to the department that shaped their academic and professional paths, a release said.

E-City firm incentivises use of public transport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Electronics City–based manufacturing firm Hical Technologies has launched 'Corporate Commute', an integrated digital solution aimed at encouraging employees to shift to public transport by simplifying onboarding, automating eligibility and offering commuting incentives.

The initiative is part of STAMP: Nudging Commuter Behaviour, a programme led by WRI India and Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF), with support from the Electronics City Industries Association, Electronics City Industrial Township Authority, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation.

The rollout coincides with the expansion of Bengaluru's Metro network.

"With the Pink Line slated for 2026 and the Blue Line progressing, our objective is to make the Metro the preferred mode of travel for IT commuters, enabled through digital integration and open standards," said BL Yashavanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer, BMRCL.

'Corporate Commute' allows employees to plan routes, purchase Metro tickets or bus passes and earn rewards through a single interface powered by mobility platform Tummoc.

As part of the pilot, 50 Hical employees will receive Rs 800 in wallet credits, along with cashback incentives and performance-based rewards.

The STAMP initiative aims to encourage corporate firms to adopt public transport.

"We are confident that many companies in Bengaluru and beyond will follow suit. Hical's experience will show how incentives, visibility of carbon savings and friendly competition can accelerate a shift to Metro and bus travel in major employment hubs," said Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, WRI India.

After CBD, 9 North Bengaluru roads to come under pay-and-park system

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

At least nine roads in Hebbal and Yelahanka New Town are set to be brought under a pay-and-park system.

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has identified the stretches where parking fees will be levied and has floated tenders to appoint agencies to manage the system.

According to sources, the roads were shortlisted based on traffic volume, availability of parking space and issues caused by haphazard parking.

The agency that wins the contract will be responsible for managing parking operations as well as towing vehicles parked in no-parking zones.

"We have provided maps clearly marking the designated parking areas. The contractor will mark parking bays using thermoplastic paint and is authorised to tow vehicles parked outside these bays within the notified jurisdiction," a senior official said.

Pay-and-park system on MG Road. DH FILE PHOTO

Parking fees have been capped at Rs 30 per hour for four-wheelers and Rs 15 per hour for two-wheelers. Towing charges of Rs 650 for two-wheelers and Rs 1,000 for four-wheelers can be levied if vehicles are parked outside designated areas.

A day pass will cost Rs 75 for two-wheelers and Rs 150 for four-wheelers, while monthly passes have been fixed at Rs 1,500 and Rs 3,000, respectively.

The BNCC has also mandated the installation of at least one CCTV camera every 200 metres. Digital variable message signboards at the entry and exit of each road will display the number of parking slots available.

All parking-related data, including occupancy, payments and violations, will be fed into a digital system for monitoring, reporting and audit by the BNCC.

Earlier, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation had announced a similar pay-and-park system on 23 roads in the Central Business District.

Although the state government approved Parking Policy 2.0 a few years ago, it is yet to be fully implemented.

ROADS IDENTIFIED
- Tank Bund Road
- Taralabalu Road
- Bhoopasandra Main Road
- Major Akshaya Girish Kumar Road (1st 'A' Main Road, 13th 'A' Main Road)
- Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road (3rd 'A' Cross Road, 3rd 'B' Cross Road, 15th 'A' cross, 16th 'B' Cross Road)

5K road safety run on February 1

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday announced a public awareness initiative on road safety.

The '5K Safe-a-thon' aims to highlight the rise in road accidents caused by reckless driving and safety violations.

With the motto 'Our Road, Our Safety', the run is scheduled for February 1, from 6 am to 8 am, starting at Kanteerava Stadium.

"Road safety is everyone's duty. Let us pledge for safer traffic by joining the campaign — walk, cycle or run," Reddy said.

Registration is free. To register, visit www.saferoadskarnataka.com.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

MediaCon: Inauguration of SCMS International Conference and Fests 2026; Organised by School of Communication and Media Studies, St Joseph's University; Dibakar Bannerjee, Subash Rai, Ammu Joseph, and others to participate; Main Auditorium, St Joseph's University, Langford Road; 9.15 am.

Inauguration: Atal Community Innovation Centre; Nirmalanandanatha Swami, BC Bhagwan and others to take part; Padmashree Campus, Kommaghatta, Kengeri; 11 am.

Blood donation camp: RTO, Yeshwantpur; 11.45 am.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Jugari Cross'; Horticulture Department and KP Poornachandra Tejaswi Prathishtana; Lalbagh; 5 pm.

Bharatanatyam performance: Students of Thamoha Arts Foundation, directed by Gayatri Maiyya; Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; 5.15 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	35%
Sunset (Jan 22)	6:15 pm
Sunrise (Jan 23)	6:46 am
Moonrise	8:30 am
Moonset	8:30 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Constitution: Seminar & walkathon at Jnanabharathi on January 30

BENGALURU, DHNS: *Prajavani* and *DH*, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, will organise a seminar and walkathon at Jnanabharathi, Bangalore University, on January 30, from 7 am onwards, as part of the 'Constitution is Light' campaign.

A seminar will be organised at Venkatagiri Auditorium, followed by a 3-km walkathon on the campus. The campaign is aimed at creating awareness about the importance of the Constitution.

Entry is free and registration mandatory. Students of degree colleges affiliated to Bangalore University can participate. Students must register in advance by scanning the QR code.

All registered participants will receive T-shirts and caps. For more information, call 9901918805.

NEW-AGE HANGOUT

GenZ-inspired lounge opens at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has opened Gate Z, a Gen Z–inspired social lounge at Terminal 2, reflecting changing expectations of airport spaces.

Next to the 080 International Lounge, Gate Z moves away from conventional lounges. It is positioned as a shared, social-first space shaped by sustainability and seamless technology, Bangalore Airport Services Limited (BASL) said.

The design draws from urban high streets, with fluid layouts, curved seating, ambient lighting and interactive zones for work or rest. AI-enabled features support intuitive navigation and personalisation.

Gate Z has four zones: Bubble & Brew (café-bar), Sipping Lounge (relaxed seating), Subway Diner (retro dining), and Amphizone (amphitheatre for screenings and pop-up events).

The lounge is located in Terminal 2.

The name Gate Z was chosen through a nationwide contest inviting young Indians to take part.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (DRDC)

Applications for the post of Chairperson CEPTAM are invited from Sc-G/ Sc-H of DRDO who have retired or due to retire on or before 31 Mar 2026 provided retired scientists are not holding any other employment.

For details login to website https://www.drdo.gov.in

Last date of receipt of applications in DRDO is By 1700 hrs on 31 Jan 2026

CBC 10301/11/0160/2526

OS/Estates Department
Divisional Office -1, P.B. No. 6694, II floor, Jeevan Prakash Building, J.C. Road, Bengaluru-560 002 Phone: 22966509

WANTED OFFICE PREMISES ON LEASE

Life Insurance Corporation of India intends to hire office premises from the individual/ firms on lease basis admeasuring **1000 sq.ft. to 1200 sq.ft.(max)** carpet area (5% variation in area is acceptable) which are in ready condition preferably on Ground and First floor or any other floor with lift facility for **SATELLITE OFFICE** at **VIDHYARANYAPURA** .The preferred location of the premises shall be within a radius of 3 km. (approximately) from Railway station/ Bus Stand. For complete details and bid documents please log on to **www.licindia.in** and go to 'Tender' and click on the link 'Advertisement for Requirement of office premises at **VIDHYARANYAPURA** on **'lease basis'**. **Persons possessing Commercial Permission & Occupancy / Completion certificate issued by the Competent Authority only to apply.**

LIC of India reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in full/ part without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date:22.01.2026 **Sd/-**
Bangalore **SR. DIVISIONAL MANAGER**

Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Flying Institute
A Society Regd. Under Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance, (Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

EoI Ref. No: - A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025/43,/Ranchi, Date:-20.01.2026

e-GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders under TWO BID SYSTEM are hereby invited by the Jharkhand Flying Institute,(JFI) Govt. of Jharkhand from Manufacturers/ Authorized Distributor of Manufacturers/ authorized vendors for purchase of Brand-New Two-Seater Trainee Aircraft in 1st Phase, Initially 04 aircraft for training purpose. The JFI plan is to purchase 15 aircrafts in different phases subject to the requirement of JFI in different schedule for its Flying Training Organization.

As per the following schedule of events:-

1.	Tender Ref. No.	A/c-GT/JFI/69/2025/43, Dated-20.01.2026
2.	Name of Work	e-bids are hereby invited by the Jharkhand Flying Institute, Govt. of Jharkhand for purchase of Brand-New Two-Seater Trainee Aircraft in 1st Phase, Initially 04 aircraft for training purpose.
3.	Tender Participation	Rs. 10000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand only) Through Online Mode (Non Refundable)
4.	Publish of Tender on website/ Start of Downloading Tender Documents	20/01/2026; 06:00 PM
5.	Pre Bid Meeting	27/01/2026; 03:30 PM
6.	Start of Submission of e-bids	29/01/2026; 10:00 AM
7.	Last date for submission of e-bids.	18/02/2026; 03:30 PM
8.	Opening of Technical Bids.	19/02/2026; 03:30 PM
9.	Opening of Financial Bids.	To be notified later.
10.	Award of agreement	Shall be notified later
11.	Delivery of Aircraft	Within 6 months from the award of the contract
12.	Officer Inviting e-Tender	Managing Director, Jharkhand Flying Institute, Govt. of Jharkhand
13.	Officer Name/Mob. No. for further enquiry	Mr. Rathour Nitant K. Singh, Section Officer Mob. No. 9472749978, E-Mail- jfi.govtfly@gmail.com

For further details visit-www.jharkhandaviation.in and for applying online, please visit www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Capt. S.P. Sinha
Managing Director,
Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 371204 Civil Aviation(25-26)#D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work before **15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against item and will be opened at **15.30 hrs. Tender No.: T-PUB-GRC-2026-422, Date: 20.01.2026. Description of work:** Outsourcing of Environment– Conscious Integrated Cleaning of offices, Colony sanitation, Waste Management and Eco-Support Services including biogas, maintenance operation of Sluice valve and compost plant in North Colony of South Eastern Railway, Headquarters, Garden Reach for a period of two (02) years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,13,86,831.56. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7,56,900 (MSE firms are entitled to claim exemption from payment of Earnest Money). **Cost of Tender documents:** ₹ 0. **Date of opening:** 11.02.2026. **Completion Period of the work:** 24 (Twentyfour) months. Any change in tender schedule, corrigendum, amendment, if any shall be available on the E-tender portal only and same will not be publish in the newspaper. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for this work will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regular visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. Help Desk contact no. 033-2450-3783. **(PR-1081)**

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Advt. No. 01/2026

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of Director, CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CEERI), Pilani, in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs.1,82,200-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/ complete advertisement No. **01/2026** on CSIR **website www.csir.res.in.** Applications /nominations may be sent alongwith complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email **at drc.hqrs@csir.res.in** or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi -110001 on or before **28/02/2026.**

CBC 36202/11/0032/2526

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thanks for Blessing us with a Son.
- Rajarshi Mukherjee & Manjuri Mukherjee

THANKSGIVING
Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in **Deccan Herald**
@2000/-
(Size 4cmx5cm)
For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, dated 18.01.2026. Following e-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/I, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Remote Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work : **Tender No.: TN-174-25-26. Name of the work :** (i) Platform extension at island platform no. 2/3 and island platform no. 4/5 at Naihati. (ii) Platform extension of platform no. 4 and platform no. 3 at Barrackpore. **Tender Value :** ₹ 7,62,88,699.09. **EMD :** ₹ 5,31,500/-. **Completion period for the work :** 06 (Six) Months. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 10.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender:** 10.02.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are at : **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected.

(SDAH-361/2025-26)

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Jharkhand State Beverage Corporation Limited, Ranchi
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
Corporate ID No. U51228JH2010SGC014519, TIN No - 20520108277, GST No- 20AACCJ5622N1ZO
Utpad Bhawan, Ground Floor, Near Naveen Police Kendra, Kanke Road, Ranchi
E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com

E-T. No-JSBCL/Esst.-05/2012-02 **Ranchi, Dated :- 21-01-2026**

- Very Short Tender Notice -
E-Tender for Empanelment of Security Guard & MTS

S.N.	Particulars	Date	Time
01	Date of Uploading of tender document on website.	22.01.2026	11:00 A.M.
02	Starting Date for Submission of E.Tender	23.12.2026	11:00 A.M.
03	Last Date/closing date for submission of E.Tender	30.01.2026	04:00 P.M.
04	Last date for Submission of Document (Hard Copy) in the JSBCL Office	31.01.2026	05:00 P.M.
05	Online opening of Technical Bid.	02.02.2026	01:00 P.M.

Tender Document can be downloaded from https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and https://jsbcl.in Tender downloaded should be submitted with tender cost of Rs. 1,000/- (In words :- One Thousand only) in Online mode through Jharkhand eProcurement portal.

Name & Address of Tenderer:
Sd/-
General Manager (Operation)
Jharkhand State Beverages Corporation Limited
Utpad Bhawan, Ground Floor, Near Naveen Police Kendra
Kanke Road, Ranchi.834008.

PR 371349 (Excise) 25-26 (D)

Ram Madhav: B'luru polls no less than Assembly battle

RSS veteran appointed BJP incharge for GBA elections

BENGALURU, DHNS

The upcoming Bengaluru civic body elections are "no less than an Assembly battle" for Karnataka, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) veteran Ram Madhav, whom the BJP has picked as its supervisor for the crucial polls, said on Wednesday.

Elections to five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) are set to take place before June 30 as directed by the Supreme Court. While Madhav has been appointed as the election in-charge, former Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia and Borivali (Mumbai) MLA Sanjay Upadhyay have been picked to work with him.

"Local body elections are fought and won purely on local agendas and the strength and hard work of the local karyakartas," Madhav said in a tweet. "With an electorate of over 9 million and 369 corporation wards, it is no less than an assembly battle for the state."

Ram Madhav

Madhav's appointment signals the seriousness the BJP has attached to the polls in Bengaluru, where the saffron party has had electoral domination.

"Madhav's appointment is a new experiment considering the importance of the elections. Of late, elections to big cities like Mumbai have become as important as Assembly polls," BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar said.

S SURESH KUMAR
BJP MLA

"Ram Madhav's appointment is a new experiment considering the importance of the elections. Of late, elections to big cities like Mumbai have become as important as Assembly polls.

An RSS product, Madhav was brought into the BJP in 2014, with Assam being one of his early assignments. By 2016, due to his contributions and entry of Congress strongman Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP formed its first government under Sarbananda Sonowal in Assam. Subsequently, the BJP formed governments in other states in that region.

In 2020, when then BJP chief J P Nadda formed a new team, Madhav was sent back to the RSS. The former national general secretary returned to BJP when he was put in charge of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls in 2024 in which the party emerged as the second largest, improving its tally to 29 seats.

The BJP is also banking on Madhav's image as a public intellectual who enjoys a following among urban audiences. "(Madhav) represents the more thoughtful wing of the Hindutva movement," journalist Raju Narisetti wrote in Forbes.

Political analyst Venkatesh Thogarighatta said a heavyweight, like Madhav, can navigate the faction-ridden BJP better. "The BJP can project a good result in GBA as a referendum against the Congress government. It also builds momentum for other local body polls lined up and keep the BJP election machinery well-oiled for the 2028 Assembly elections."

Constitution is the backbone of India's strength, experts opine

Police Commissioner Sharanappa S D, District Legal Services Authority Member-Secretary Srinivas Navale, Prajavani sub-editor Prabhu Adavihal, retired principal Narendra Badaseshi and Central University of Karnataka Assistant Professor Appagere Somashekar participate in the panel discussion on Constitution, in Kalaburagi.

KALABURAGI, DHNS

The concept of social justice in the Constitution has a broad meaning and it is not limited to the political, social or professional fields. Its definition is a bit difficult, and the Supreme Court has also opined that it applies to the respective context and region, Kalaburagi District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Srinivas Navale said.

He was speaking at a panel discussion "Constitution is Light" organised by the Social Welfare Department in association with Deccan Herald and Prajavani.

"Ours is the largest written Constitution in the world. When we got independence, we had different cultures, illiteracy and it was a time when had just come out of British rule. Thus, the Constitution was drafted by adopting all the good principles in the world's constitutions while imbibing our national ideals. The Constitution also prescribes procedure for its amendment," he said.

Kalaburagi City Police Commissioner Srinivas S D said that the Constitution gave the hope and dream of running the country after Independence. "But, it is unfortunate that the youth are not aware of such a Constitution. All are equal before the law as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution. The laws providing equal protection of the law to all are the tools used by the Constitution" he added.

CONSTITUTION IS LIGHT
Curated by
DH DECCAN HERALD | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

"The backbone of India's strength is the Constitution and hence everyone needs to be aware of it. Although the Constitution has changed over the time, its original intentions have remained the same. Fundamental Duties have been inserted into the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment. The people of the country should emphasise not only on fundamental rights but also on fulfilling fundamental duties", he said.

Scan and watch complete round table discussion

Karnataka Central University Assistant Professor Appagere Somashekar said that Shahu Maharaj was the one who strongly advocated reservation in the country. "He is a pioneer of reservation in modern India credited with introducing the first reservation policies for backward classes in his princely state of Kolhapur. Reservation is something that speaks of representation. We have read the history of India before the implementation of the Constitution. We are now in India after the Constitution came into force. The Constitution needs to be understood on both these bases. Then, it will be clear why reservation was provided for in the Constitution" he said.

Retired principal Narendra Badaseshi said that the process of bringing the lower class to the upper class is equality. It is not just an ideal. It is a dream. Reservation is the stepping stone to its realisation.

"Ambedkar had an idea about the future of the country. To turn that vision of the idea into a dream, he worked to confer rights and duties in this Constitution. The basic purpose of the Constitution is to transform a society. A doctor cures a disease that has struck the body. The purpose of the Constitution is to find a solution to the diseases that have afflicted the society," he said.

An Initiative by:
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
For the Educational, Social & Economic Upliftment of Scheduled Castes

In Association with:

HDK flays CM for not providing scholarship to students

HASSAN, DHNS: Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday criticised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for failing to provide scholarships to poor students belonging to backward and minority communities over the past three years.

He told reporters here, "What kind of Ahinda leader is Siddaramaiah? From the year 2023 to 2026, 1.64 lakh students from backward and minority communities have not received scholarships. The students belonging to the Ahinda category have been cheated. "

"The officials claim that the money has not been released by the Finance Department. The community should note to what extent the chief minister is protecting the interests of the children belonging to Ahinda communities," he charged.

DH had carried a report that 1.6 lakh backward class and minority students are in distress as they have not received scholarship, on January 20.

Sriramulu says sorry to POCSO victim for disclosing identity

BALLARI, DHNS: Former minister and BJP leader B Sriramulu on Wednesday apologised to a POCSO victim and her parents for revealing her identity during his address at a party rally held recently

"The sale and consumption of drugs and illicit businesses are on the rise in Ballari. While highlighting this and deteriorating law and order in the city and state during the January 17 rally, I revealed the identity of the survivor. I apologise to the victim and her parents if I have hurt them with my disclosure. She's like my daughter and I will stand with her to get justice legally," Sriramulu told reporters here.

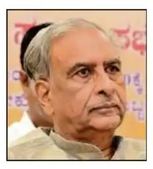
'Guv bound by Constitution to read speech drafted by govt'

I don't think Gehlot will follow Kerala counterpart: Horatti

BENGALURU, DHNS

Weighing in on the debate around the Kerala Governor's decision to amend the speech drafted by the government for his address to the state legislature, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti on Wednesday said that the Governor was bound by the rules of the Constitution to read the speech as written by the state government.

"I don't think such a situation will arise in Karnataka. It is the Governor's Constitutionally mandated duty to read the speech drafted by the state government. Whoever the Governor may be, he or she cannot ignore the Constitution," said Horatti.


Basavaraj Horatti

Citing the provisions of Article 176 of the Constitution, Horatti added, "Leave alone dropping a few lines, the Governor cannot add or delete a single word from the speech drafted by the state government."

Although Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has thus far steered clear of confrontations with the state government, he may find it discomfiting if asked to criticise the Centre in his address to the state legislature, opined Horatti.

Pending items to be tabled

Horatti said that he would endeavour to table items pending from the Winter Session in the upcoming special session of the state legislature.

"In addition to discussions on MGNREGA, there will be question hour," said the Council Chairman.

CELEBRATING AN ICON

Cultural troupes take part in a procession as part of saint Nijasharana Ambigara Chowdayya Jayanti in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Chouhan to attend BJP event on VB G RAM G

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka said on Wednesday that a programme related to the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB G RAM G) Act will be held before the joint session of the legislature.

The joint session, beginning on Thursday, will discuss the repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which was replaced by VB — G RAM (G).

"A meeting will be held with all MLAs and leaders to understand and create awareness about the scheme. Regarding this, I have written a letter to Union Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan. He has said he will participate in the programme related to the scheme. Similarly, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy will also attend. The scheme will be explained in detail during this programme. Before the session, we will hold the programme and inform the people about the scheme," Ashoka told reporters.

While the legislature is expected to pass a resolution against the new Act, Ashoka felt there was "no benefit" in doing so.

"The Congress government has tried to hinder the central government's scheme by convening a special session. A resolution against the VB — G RAM G scheme will be passed and sent to the central government," he added.

He said "irregularities to the tune of thousands of crores" had occurred under MGNREGA and felt the new Act brings "more transparency."

"There was no need for the Congress government to hold the session. They could have directly met the ministers or the prime minister. This resolution may send a message to the media, but it won't provide any administrative benefit," he said.

Priyank writes to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on e-Swathu issues

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge has sought the "immediate intervention" of Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to "stabilise and optimise" the e-Swathu application, which is facing glitches.

In a letter to Vaishnaw, Priyank stated that the e-Swathu application, with technical support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), has been implemented across all gram panchayats since 2013.

"Currently, the RDPR department manages approximately 1.5 crore property (khata) records, which were earlier maintained manually at the gram panchayat-level. Citizens were required to physically visit panchayat offices to avail khata-related services," Priyank stated.

The RDPR department has decided to issue e-Khatas to over 97 lakh digitised properties available on the Panchamitra 2.0 platform, Priyank stated. This will allow citizens to obtain e-Khatas "completely online" without them having to visit offices. "However, subsequent to the rollout on December 1, 2025, citizens as well as users at gram panchayat and taluk/block panchayat levels have been facing numerous operational issues," Priyank stated.

"These include inability to apply for e-Khatas, failure to forward applications to subsequent workflow stages and frequent disruptions wherein changes introduced in one module adversely impact other modules," he said, adding that the NIC team "has not been able to deliver modules within agreed timelines."

e-Khatas are mandatory for rural property registrations and borrowing loans. However, officials and citizens have been facing "significant hardship" over the past month in obtaining e-Khatas, Priyank stated.

Seeking Vaishnaw's intervention, he said: "This matter is urgent, and has significant implications for property registration, financial inclusion and public service delivery."

Union govt ends vacuum, clarifies on use of environment funds

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union government has come up with a new set of rules for the utilisation of penalty collected under environmental laws, with a clear direction to deposit 25% of the funds to the Centre.

Pollution control authorities at the state and union territories collect penalties imposed under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other instruments. Till now, these organisations had managed the funds at the state level without the Centre's directions.

However, over the years, state governments have tried to tap into the funds.

With Karnataka's latest attempt to divert Rs 400 crore of funds from the state pollution control board leading to the registration of a suo motu case at the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The NGT pointed to the *DH* report indicating the attempted use of funds for development works in other states and which ordered notice to all the states and the Centre on December 3, 2025.

Funds can be used for

- For environmental monitoring equipment / network
- Upgradation of environmental laboratories
- Research relating to clean technologies
- Remediation of environmental damages
- Strengthening environment impact assessment authorities
- Strengthening state/ centre pollution control board
- Conducting studies as directed by various courts and tribunals
- Awareness building projects
- Measures to prevent and control environmental pollution

Funds cannot be used for

- Payment of medical expenses
- Undertaking foreign visits
- Construction of office buildings
- Purchase of furniture, vehicle and office equipment

Centre's new rules

In a notification, dated January 15, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought into force the Environment (Protection) Fund Rules, 2026, which seeks to clarify not only the purposes for which the funds have to be used but introduce guidelines for collection and crediting of funds. A new portal is set to be created for the implementation of the new rules.

Accordingly, all the payments related to penalty and other funds have to be made in the Environment Protection Fund (EPF) through the online Bharatkosh portal of the Centre by crediting into the consolidated fund of India. Thereafter, the funds are transferred to the public account of India under the EPF as per the approved accounting procedure.

"The Administrator shall remit 75% of the penalty collected in the Fund to the Consolidated Fund of the State of the concerned state and the Union Territory, and 25% of the penalty shall be retained by the Centre," the notification says.

Moreover, states and the Centre have to create a respective project management unit headed by not below the rank of joint secretary to manage the funds. The transactions will be reviewed and audited.

IN BRIEF

Congress moves to expel Rajeev Gowda

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Congress on Wednesday asked its disciplinary committee to consider expelling Shidlaghata leader Rajeev Gowda, who is on the run after abusing and threatening a municicpal commissioner.

In a letter to the party's disciplinary committee chairperson K Rahman Khan, Karnataka Congress working president G C Chandrashekar stated that Gowda had not even responded to a show-cause notice. Chandrashekar has urged Khan to "examine" and "immediately expel" Gowda.

Chandrashekar wrote the letter based on a directive by Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar.

Siddu may create new records: Dinesh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Wednesday said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may go on to create new records while in office.

Rao said this a day after former MP D K Suresh said his brother, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, was "patiently waiting" for Congress to decide on the leadership dispute.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

"Siddaramaiah is among the most popular leaders Karnataka has seen. He's not after records, but they're getting created on their own. His experience, commitment and social concern are unmatched. There's no surprise if he goes on to make new records," Rao said.

Home loan repayers in fix as stamps & regn dept fails to apprise banks on OTPs

Password-based Aadhaar verification must for property reconveyance deeds

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Home loan repayers in Karnataka are in a fix over the lack of official communication between the department of stamps and registration and banks on providing one-time passwords (OTPs) to customers while executing deeds of reconveyance.

The department's Kaveri 2.0 software makes OTP-based Aadhaar verification compulsory for both property owners and bank officials to process applications.

However, several branch managers are hesitant to provide the OTP, which is sent to their personal phone numbers, as they fear it could lead to fraud and long-term legal liability in the absence of any communication from either the RBI or state government.

A reconveyance deed is a crucial legal document required to remove the bank's charge on a property once a loan is fully repaid. Without this deed, property owners may face complications during resale, registration or mutation of records.

Till a month ago, nationalised bank officials were exempt from either personally visiting sub-registrar offices for authentication or providing OTPs for executing reconveyance deeds.

Banks earlier provided the branch's TIN number along with an official's Aadhaar details.

Officials at the department of stamps and registration and sub-registrars say OTP-based verification was introduced to minimise fraud and bring in transparency.

Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps Mullai Muhilan M P said section 7 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, has been legalized now, making sure that both property owners and bank officials prove their identity while executing the deed. "We have not complicated the process, but only enforcing the law," he says.

Sources in the sub-registrar office told *DH* that this was done to minimize fraud, as earlier people used to apply for reconveyance deeds without repaying the loans.

The senior officer said as applications are generated through the citizen login, there is no need for the government to issue any orders to banks in this regard.

However, multiple property owners complained that the process of applying through Kaveri 2 was too complicated and that, without the help of 'agents', it was impossible to apply.

Mullai refuted charges that the process was currently complicated. "We are trying to ensure that the public do not go to touts and agents to get their work done".

Meanwhile, bankers are hesitant to provide OTP details to agents and third parties.

"We bankers propagate that OTPs and other sensitive details should not be shared with strangers online. Now, the sub-registrar office wants us to give OTPs received on personal numbers. Who will be liable if something goes wrong?" said Maruti, assistant manager at the RACPC State Bank of India branch in Hubballi.

Another branch manager from Dharwad said she recently received a call from the Lokayukta seeking clarification on multiple property transactions linked to her Aadhaar number, after she had given 10 OTPs to customers in a day. Bank officials said that in the absence of official communication from their senior officials, the state government or RBI, it was risky to provide OTPs.

M Bhaskara Chakravarthy, convenor of Karnataka State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and general manager, Canara Bank, said the issue of OTP resistance from branch managers had come to SLBC's notice.

"While officially we have not received any communication from the government or sub-registrars, keeping in mind the hardship customers may face, we have orally asked officers to cooperate with property owners," he said.

Dindigul Thalappakatti launches Nati Raja

(Left to right) Dindigul Talappakatti's director Ravi Kannan, chief business officer A Senthil Kumar, managing director Nagasamy Dhanabalan and chief financial officer Ramesh Subbarao.

Nati Raja, a new brand dedicated to Karnataka's iconic Donne Biryani, will be available across south India, exclusively on leading food delivery platforms. Nati Raja reflects the brand's uncompromising focus on authenticity, quality and process excellence. Each dish is prepared using traditional techniques and premium ingredients, supported by a robust, multi-layered quality control system.

Nagasamy Dhanabalan, Managing Director, said, "Nati Raja is about preserving a legacy and celebrating Karnataka's royal flavours". Senthil Kumar, Chief Business Officer, added,

"Nati Raja allows us to introduce a differentiated regional Donne Biryani experience".

DH Nati Raja

Curated by DH Brandspot

KSSA Indian Open scrabble championship from Jan 23

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Scrabble Association (KSSA), in partnership with decision sciences company Mu Sigma, will host KSSA Indian Open 2026, an international scrabble championship, in Bengaluru from January 23 to 26.

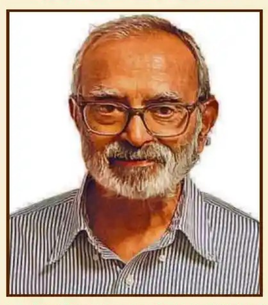
Over 165 players from 13 countries will compete in the tournament across 4 divisions based on expertise level to win trophies and cash prizes totaling Rs 11.6 lakh.

This includes the current world number 3, Hubert Wee of Singapore, 2017 Scrabble World Champion Akshay Bhandarkar, WESPA (Global governing body of scrabble) Chairman Lukeman Owolabi and 16-year-old Bengaluru boy Suyash Manchali, who won the silver medal at the 2024 World Youth Scrabble Championship and finished 5th at the 2025 edition.

The special Division D tournament on January 26 is aimed at newbie players to gain exposure to competitive scrabble with its strict time limit of 25 minutes per player and a standard set of rules, according to a news release.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

SAD DEMISE



Dr. NANJAPPA SREENIVAS
DOD: 13-01-2026
Your gentle heart and boundless love touched every soul. You live on in our memories for ever
Harlingen, Texas. USA
India - Seshadripuram, Bangalore
Mourned by:
Family and Friends

Steer clear of drugs, VP tells students

Shivakumara Swami a shining light, says Radhakrishnan

BENGALURU/TUMAKURU, DHNS

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan greets children while participating in the 7th death anniversary of Shivakumara Swami at Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna is also seen.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Wednesday urged students to say "No to Drugs" and also to be alert while using social media.

Speaking at the silver jubilee celebrations of CMR Institute of Technology in the city, Radhakrishnan said, "Drugs should not spoil the youngsters of this nation. I want this university students to join with all of us and must say a loud no to drugs. We did it three days ago at Delhi University."

Cautioning the youngsters on the use of social media, the VP said, "I also advice all of you to be very careful while using social media. There are both positive and negative sides for any new invention. It is not that you should not use the social media at all, but be in your limits and control your mind."

Inaugurating the incubation centre at the university, Radhakrishnan advised students to be ready to adopt any changes in the technological field.

He further informed students that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a lot of confidence in youngsters. "Whenever I meet the Prime Minister, he says India is going to be the supreme power of the world by 2047. Yes we want to be more powerful but not to dominate other countries, nobody should dare to dictate terms to our country," he stated.

Visit to Siddaganga Mutt

Earlier in the day, Vice President Radhakrishnan participated as the chief guest in the 7th Commemoration Day of Shivakumara Swami at Siddaganga Mutt, Tumakuru.

Praising the seer throughout his speech, Radhakrishnan called him, "A shining light. A great saint of this land, who was generous and a simple living being. The seer devoted his entire life for society. 'Dasoha' was his great contribution to this land and also a strong message."

It is not enough if just remember the seer, but need to tread the path shown by him by following his ideals and principles, he added.

The VP said, "The seer transformed spirituality into service and service into devotion."

At a time when the country was facing food shortage, the seer resorted to 'Anna Dasoha' (offering free food). The seer never considered providing 'Trividha Dasoha', offering free food, free education and free shelter, as charity. He rather lovingly provided them as fundamental right, Radhakrishnan added.

Take steps to prevent closure of aided schools: Basavaraj Horatti

BENGALURU, DHNS: Expressing dismay over the closure of government-aided schools in the state, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Wednesday urged Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa to take steps to arrest the trend.

In his letter to the minister, Horatti pointed out that government-aided schools drew children from underprivileged sections of society. "These schools are being closed owing to lack of support from the government, prompting parents to enrol their children in private schools, where they have to pay huge sums in fees," rued Horatti.

Shortage of staff and paucity of funds were two of the major problems plaguing government-aided schools, said the Council Chairman. "The government must ensure disbursal of sufficient funds to these schools every year. The government refused permission to fill vacancies at aided schools, resulting in their closure," said Horatti.

Development of select schools across the state as 'magnet schools', which would be transformed into Karnataka Public Schools, could lead to the closure of Kannada-medium schools in the rural areas, he said. Expressing his opposition to the plan to merge schools, those that have very few students, with larger schools, Horatti said, "Regardless of the number of students at schools, the government must appoint a teacher and impart education."

Umesh Kumar replaces Ramachandra Rao as DGP of DCRE

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following the suspension of senior IPS officer K Ramachandra Rao, the state government on Wednesday placed Umesh Kumar in concurrent charge as the DGP of Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE).

This post was earlier held by Rao. Kumar also holds the post of DGP (Recruitment).

Rao was placed under suspension after purported "sleaze" videos of him allegedly inside his office were leaked on the public domain.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase Schedule Property from **Sri. MADI RAJU DORESWAMY** S/o. Late M. Venkatarama Raju, residing at No.10, 1st Cross, Behind CPRI Compound, Geddalahalli, Bangalore – 560 094.
This Notice is hereby given for the information of General Public that any person/persons or Banks or Financial Institutions having any right, title, interest or claim against the Schedule Property, may contact with documentary proof in support of his/her/their claim. If no claim is so lodged with us within the said period of 10 days from this date of publication, it shall be presumed by my client that no one has any claim against the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ITEM NO.I : All that piece and parcel of immovable Property of agricultural dry land bearing Survey No.18/3 situated at Geddalapalya Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring 30 Guntas. **Bounded on:** East By :Survey No.18/1, West By: Hadonahalli Village Boundary, North By : Subbaraya Nagenahalli Village Boundary, South By: Hadonahalli Village Boundary.
ITEM NO.II: All that piece and parcel of immovable Property of agricultural dry land bearing Survey No.128/3 situated at Hadonahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring 25 Guntas.
Bounded on: East By :Survey No. 128/2,West By: Survey No.128/1, North By : Geddala palya Village Boundary, South By: Road.
Sd/- P. Narasimhaiah, Advocate, No.1, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-55 Ph:080 23343461 Mob: 94482 73366 Mail: p.narasimhaiah@yahoo.co.in www.pnarasimhaiah-advocate.com Date :21.01.2026 Place:Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
To Place your Classified Ads Contact
9731810277

HKBK College of Engineering
Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to VTU
22/1, opposite Manyata Tech Park, Nagawara, Bangalore - 560045
TENDER NOTICE
Tender notification for establishment of AICTE IDEA LAB
HKBK College of Engineering invites sealed/online tender from reputed vendors to submit the quotation for the supply, installation and commission of equipments, tools and consumables under the AICTE IDEA grant.
Last Date:
12-02-2026 up to 5.00 PM
Further Details
https://www.hkbk.edu.in/idea-lab/idea_lab_tender_notice.pdf
Email: idealab@hkbk.edu.in
Ph. No: 9620525177
Sd/- Principal/Chief Mentor

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
Notice is hereby given that we, MR. PRASHANTH PHILO and MR. PUNEETH DANIEL, sons of Late Rev. David Vijayakumar, residing at "Dhiraan Meadows Apartments", Flat B459, Chandapura, Bangalore 560099, have lost the ORIGINAL UNREGISTERED GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY (GPA). This GPA was the instrument through which our mother, MRS. SHOBHA RANI VIJAYAKUMAR, purchased the property from Sri. K.V. Narayana Swamy under a Sale Deed dated 18.12.1997, registered as Document No. 9275/1997-98 at Sub Registrar Office Krishnarajapura, Bangalore. The document was lost in Chandapura between 22/11/2025 and 26/12/2025, and a police report was filed with Bengaluru Rural Police (Lost Report No.1977352/2025). The subject property is Site No. 6,Horamavu Village, Bangalore (30x40ft), bounded by Site No. 5 (East),Site No. 15 (West), Road (North), and Private Property (South). Any person finding the said original document is kindly requested to return it to us at the address mentioned above.
Contact : 9986775254

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General

URGENT HIRING: Civil Site Engineer required for a major project in Mangalore with minimum 3years experience. Immediate joining. WhatsApp CV: 9880730836.

Teachers/ Professors

SHEILA KOTHAVALA Institute for the Deaf is hiring 1 Librarian and 5 teachers with RCI registration, trained graduates with HI BEd/DEd to teach hearing impaired children from primary to higher secondary classess. Sign language is necessary. Eligible candidates may send resumes to skid_71@yahoo.com or secretary.deafaidsociety@gmail.com or WhatsApp 9611377805.

Wanted

WANTED FEMALE HR with min 3yrs of experience for a Manufacturing Company in Mangalore. Send cv to +91 9902252605 or +91 8951619411.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **N.L ROOPA, N. LAKSHMI ROOPA, ROOPA N.L. VISPI, ROOPA N.L. VISPI KHURSETJEE & ROOPA VISPI,** residing at D-1102, NCC Asterpark, Major Sandeep Unnikrishan Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560065, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **ROOPA VISPI KHURSETJEE**, vide affidavit dated 20-01-2026 before notary G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RANJITH KUMAR** S/o Thyagarajachari, R/at No. 29, Sai City Layout, TC Palya, KR Puram, Bengaluru- 560049, have changed my name to **RANJITH KUMAR SHIVARAPATNA THYAGARAJACHARI** vide affidavit dated 19-01-2026 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Mary Rozario,** aged about 65 years, wife of Mr. Anthony Rozario, resident of #747/3, Kodihalli, 5th Cross, Behind Leela Palace, Bengaluru 560008, hereby declare that my names **Mary Rozario and Mary Felis Rozario** belongs to one and the same person, vide affidavit dated: 28.05.2024 before advocate and notary Indira S.S., Bengaluru.

I, PRASAD J N, J N PRASAD and PRASAD JAVAGAL NAGHESH BHATT residing at 13, 8th cross, 30th main, Sarakki ITI layout, JP Nagar 1st phase, Bangalore 560078, declare that above names pertain to me only and henceforth shall be known as PRASAD JAVAGAL NAGHESH BHATT vide affidavit dated 4november2025 before Notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman.

I, SRINIVAS Sudakara S/o K. Srinivas, aged about 46 years, residing at Water Tank #430/26, 4th Cross, Karanji Katte Kolar City Kolar District. Have changed my name to S Sudhakar Vide affidavit dated 20.01.2026 before Notary M. Krishne Gowda Kolar. Henceforth I shall be called as S.S Sudhakar only.

I, SHAJI Thomas C, S/o K. V. Thomas (Late), R/o #10, 5A Cross, Kempe Gowda Layout, Dr. Shivaramkarath Nagar Post, Bangalore-560077, have changed my name to Shaji Thomas for personal reasons and to maintain uniformity in all documents via affidavit dated 20-Jan-2026.

BUSINESS

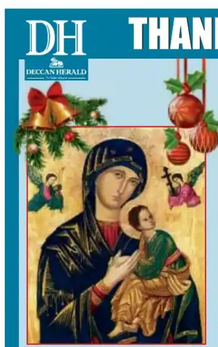
Business Offers

Finance

MSME LOAN
Available For Any Start-UpsCompanies And Existing Running Companies,Hotels,Shops Establishments Etc
Contact-7204995189

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

THANKSGIVING



Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in Deccan Herald for ANNUAL FEAST OF MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP ON 25th January 2026
@ 2100 with GST
(Size 4cmx5cm)
For more Details Contact:
Ph :080 - 45557163 | 164 | 9731810277

New open source for 5G network launched

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indian Open Source for Mobile Communication Networks (IOS-MCN) Consortium has released Agartala 0.4.0, an open-source software platform that enables organisations to build and operate their own private 5G networks.

Designed for factories, campuses, research institutions and startups, the platform offers faster, more reliable and secure connectivity than Wi-fi or public mobile networks at a lower cost.

Agartala 0.4.0 is the fourth open-source milestone of India's homegrown private 5G initiative and is mature enough for pilot deployments. Validation tests show end-to-end latency of under 10 milliseconds and downlink throughput of up to 600 Mbps per gNB, making it suitable for enterprise trials.

The platform is being developed by a consortium led by FSID–STEM CELL at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, along with IIT Delhi and C-DAC, with funding from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Early installations are expected to begin in the second half of 2026.

YARDS OF YEARNING

Women never sorry for long waits at Mysore silk saree stores

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

KSIC plans to ramp up production by training more people in the skill-intensive job of weaving sarees.

As demand soars for Mysore silk sarees, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited (KSIC) is set to increase its manufacturing capacity.

Senior KSIC officials said a shortage of skilled workers had made it difficult to boost production and efforts were underway to train more people.

The manpower shortage was caused by the superannuation of skilled workers in the last few years.

"This is skilled work and production cannot be ramped up overnight. We are training more artisans. To weave high-end saris priced at Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh, workers need at least 12 years of experience," KSIC managing director Zehera Naseem told *DH*.

Every artisan must undergo at least six months of training before probation period where they are assigned to work on simpler saris.

The KSIC can produce 370 sarees per day and has 16 retail stores — seven in Bengaluru (including one at the airport), six in Mysuru and one each in Channapatna, Davangere and Hyderabad.

The KSIC has now added 30 new E-jacquard machines at its weaving units in Channapatna and Mysuru.

"We are also adding three automatic reeling machines, three warping machines, 20 heavy duty looms, and one automatic weaving machine," a senior KSIC official said.

In the last two years, KSIC has introduced 37 new designs and adopted a new colour palette, including pastel colours.

"This may have attracted more customers," Zehera noted.

Videos of people queing up in front of a KSIC outlet in Mysuru during early morning hours keeps going viral every now and then. Most customers said they had no other option but to wait in the queue to get the saris.

"Once in a week, they start giving tokens around 7 am and people start queuing up as early as 4 am or 5 am. However, even after you get a token, you will have to wait till 10 am to go in and select sarees. We prefer to buy these sarees because they're comfortable and elegant. There is no option, but to wait. We will wait and purchase," said Sahana B, a resident of Rajajinagar in Bengaluru.

Many others also travel to Mysuru because the stock there is higher.

"We tried buying at the Bengaluru stores, but did not get the design and colours we were looking for. So we took a two-day trip to Mysuru. Though we still did not get what was in our mind, we got a better design and colour in Mysuru," said Shyamala S, a resident of Kathriguppe in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru International Film Festival from Jan 29

225 films to be screened; 3 Palestinian movies yet to get nod

Sadhu Kokila, chairman of the Academy, B B Kaveri, secretary to department of information & public relations (DIPR), Hemanth Nimbalkar, commissioner, DIPR and Murali P B, artistic director of film festival at a press meet on the 17th Biffes in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will begin next week.

The inauguration will take place at Vidhana Soudha on January 29 and films will be screened from January 30 to February 6 at Cinepolis in Lulu Mall, Rajajinagar. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, festival's ambassador and veteran actor Prakash Raj and actor Rukmini Vasanth will inaugurate the festival.

This year, BIFFes will screen about 225 films from 70 countries. Jafar Panahi's *It Was Just an Accident*, Joachim Trier's *Sentimental Value*, Park Chan-Wook's *No Other Choice*, Alireza Khatami's *The Things You Kill*, and Ali Asgari's *Divine Comedy* are among the films that will be screened.

However, three acclaimed Palestinian films have not yet received clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs. Additional details were requested by the ministry, the organisers said at a press conference on Wednesday. The films include *Palestine 36*, *The Voice of Hind Rajab* and *All That's Left of You*.

The festival also announced the films selected for the competition sections. Fifteen films are selected in each of the categories — Asian, Indian and Kannada.

Among the films announced in the Asian Cinema Competition is Natesh Hegde's *Vagachipani*, which premiered at Berlinale last year. *Kantara Chapter 1* is competing in the Kannada Competition Section, alongside P Sheshadri's *Ruby Cube* and Janardhan Chikkanna's *Agnyatavasi*, among others.

The festival will also screen films of Thai film auteur Apichatpong Weerasethukal, in collaboration with the Thai Consulate, Chennai. Weerasethukal's films are known for their dreamlike, meditative and surreal narratives. His acclaimed films include *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, *Tropical Malady* and *Blissfully Yours*. Polish filmmaker Andrez Wajda's retrospective is another highlight.

Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zameen* (1953), that underwent a significant 4K digital restoration by The Criterion Collection, Janus Films, and the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), will also be screened.

Restored films of Rajkumar, *Bhakta Kanakadasa*, *Sandhya Raga*, *Shankar Guru* and *Jeevana Chaitra* will be showcased.

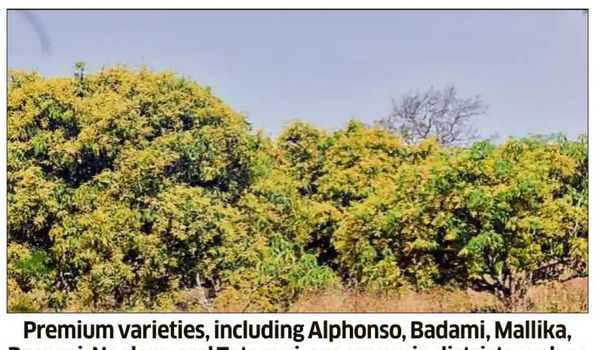
Multiple masterclasses will be conducted throughout the course of the festival, including an editing masterclass by Sreekar Prasad, about new age story telling by Mahesh Narayanan and an audiography session by Bishwadeep Chatterjee. Prakash Raj will conduct a session titled 'We and Our Cinema', a conversation with Jayant Kaikini about film appreciation and a lecture on Andrez Wajda are the other highlights.

This year's V K Murthy Memorial Lecture will be conducted by eminent filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli. There will also be a panel discussion about the future of film criticism to commemorate 100 years of FIPRESCI.

BIFFes will honour legendary musician Bupen Hazarika, Egyptian filmmaker Youssef Chahine, Girish Kasaravalli, Jayamala, Parvathamma Rajkumar, Smita Patil and Shankar Nag among others.

Summer treat in store for mango lovers, farmers

R SHRINIDHI
DHARWAD, DHNS



Premium varieties, including Alphonso, Badami, Mallika, Raspuri, Neelam, and Totapuri, are grown in districts such as Dharwad, Belagavi, Kolar, Ramanagara, and Chikkaballapur.

Mango production in Karnataka is expected to rise by nearly 20% this season, buoyed by favourable weather conditions during the crucial flowering stage. After four consecutive years of erratic climate patterns, mango growers across the state are hopeful of a good harvest. Last year, mangoes were cultivated on over 2,00,000 hectares of land and produced 10 million tonnes of fruit.

Premium varieties, including Alphonso, Badami, Mallika, Raspuri, Neelam, and Totapuri, are grown in major mango-growing districts such as Dharwad, Belagavi, Kolar, Ramanagara, and Chikkaballapur.

Erratic weather patterns had severely affected flowering and fruit size in recent seasons, pushing growers into uncertainty. However, this year has brought favourable cold weather during the critical flowering stage, resulting in mango trees laden with blossoms and raising optimism among farmers.

Officials said fog during the flowering stage is usually a threat to the crop. However, with the cold weather subsiding after Sankranti, the fog has also disappeared. As a result, mango production is expected to increase by nearly 20% this year, said Horticulture Department deputy director Kashinath Badrannavar.

Typically, mango flowering occurs during the winter months of December and January. In recent years, adverse climatic conditions led to sparse flowering, premature flower drop, or even complete failure of flowering in some orchards. Mangoes are grown across nearly 18,000 hectares in Dharwad and about 15,000 hectares in Belagavi, nearly 99% of the area is under the Alphonso (Aapus) variety.

The Horticulture Department expects a mango yield of around 65,000 tonnes in Dharwad district and 50,000 tonnes in Belagavi this year.

In Kolar, mango is being cultivated in 39,331 hectares, while in Srinivaspur taluk it is cultivated in 52,000 acres. Ramanagara is another hotspot wherein mango is cultivated in 27,000 hectares.

Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Ramanagara are known for growing Neelam, Totapuri, Badami, Raspuri, Amarpali and Mallika.

Disheartened by crop failures, many growers had begun shifting to alternative crops. Against this backdrop, the favourable weather this year, combined with the absence of major disease threats, has led to renewed confidence, said mango grower Devendrappa Jainar of Kelageri.

Badrannavar cautioned farmers against complacency, stating that good flowering alone does not guarantee a good harvest. "Protecting the blossoms can ensure maximum fruit set," he said, adding that growers have been advised not to spray chemicals or irrigate orchards during pollination.

Leopard mauls pilgrim to death at M M Hill

HANUR (CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: A pilgrim on a Padayatra to Malai Mahadeshwara Hill temple was allegedly mauled to death by a leopard on Wednesday.

Praveen (33), a resident of Cheeranahalli, Mandya district, was on a padayatra to the hill temple, at a distance of seven kilometres from Talabetta village, with a group of six people during the early hours of Wednesday, when a leopard attacked them, near Rangaswamy Oddu.

The leopard dragged Praveen into a bush and consumed the neck and other parts of the body. Praveen died on the spot. The others had a narrow escape.

The Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary officials rushed to the spot, drove the leopard into the forest and shifted the body to the mortuary for postmortem. Thousands of devotees undertake a padayatra on special days, such as Shivaratri, Ugadi, and Deepavali, as well as on Amavasya days. The leopard attack has caused panic among the devotees. They have demanded suitable protection.

Deputy Commissioner Sri Roopa has issued orders restricting the padayatra of devotees from Talabetta to the MM Hill temple, as well as the two-wheeler movement, until January 24.

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka -Reg Autonous Institute)
Phone: 08272 298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
Ref:No. ME/2025-26/IND: Date: 16.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderrers through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** GOK, for the supply of Books for the use of SC/ST Students (Medical, Paramedical, Nursing & AHS) Studying in KOIMS, Madikeri, Applications can be download from **18.01.2026 -10.00 AM** last date for upload is **02.02.2026- 5.00** PM, for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.
e-mail: **directormckodagu@gmail.com**

Dean & Director, KoIMS, Madikeri

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ
HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN
Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: HIMS/TS/SSW/1/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, invites tender for Security Services to HIMS Hassan from the Authorized Agency in two cover bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 Sl No Tender Notification No 01)HIMS/TS/SSW/1/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN Details Security Services Tender Uploading Date & Last Date 23.01.2026 to 21.02.2026 Estimated Cost of Tender Rs 423.01 Lakhs EMD (Rs)Rs 6.34 Lakhs Tender details can be viewed , downloaded and applied only through the e-procurement mode only website : www.kpppuat.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact/visit office during working hours.

Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.
ಹಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/957/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL, Transmission (Operations) Zone, Kalaburagi invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following works:

I. No.: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/13059 Date: 20.01.2026

Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SS/2025-26/Hanumasagar replacement Dtd: 12-08-2025/Call-3 for Replacement of 2x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV transformer & providing additional switchgear at 110kV Hanumasagar S/s in Kushtagi Taluk, Koppal District.

II. No.: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/13073 Date: 20.01.2026

Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SS/2025-26/Venkatgiri replacement Dtd: 17-07-2025/Call-4 for Replacement of 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV transformer & providing additional switchgear at 110kV Venkatgiri S/s in Gangavathi Taluk, Koppal District.

III. No.: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/13081 Date: 20.01.2026

Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Navali Replacement Call-4 for "Replacement of 2x10MVA 110/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers and providing additional switchgear at 110/11kV Navali Sub Station in Kanakagiri Taluk, Koppal District on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments(Excluding supply 20 MVA power transformers and 1lkV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning."

For more information log on to KPTCL website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in on the hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on/after **22-01-2026**..

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-5/2025-26/5636 Date : 19/01/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Construction of Anganwadi building and toilet to Ashok Nagar-1, Sharan Nagar, Tarnalli-1 and Chhunnabhatti-1 at Shahabad in Shahabad Taluka, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB for the year 2025-26**, 3) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 71,32,044.74**, 4) Class of Contractor: Class- III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **19-01-2026 to 28-01-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: **Rs. 1,43,000.00**, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **19-01-2026 to 28-01-2026 upto 4.00 pm,** 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **29-01-2026 After 4.00 pm,** 10) Financial Bid opening Date:**31-01-2026 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/989/KSMC&A/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga. Ph: 08182-254832
E-Mail:eeutpsmg@gmail.com
1.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26 T.N. NO-38 Dt: 19.01.2026

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender through kpp-portal system from eligible contractors for Six(06) works coming under Head of Account 4701 Upper Tunga Project.

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs.421.36 lakhs (I. No.3856), Rs.253.71 lakhs (I. No.3857), Rs.421.41 lakhs (I. No.3858), Rs.402.03 lakhs (I. No.3859), Rs.421.31 lakhs (I. No.3860) and Rs.421.63 lakhs (I. No.3861) (excluding GST)

2) Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: **23.01.2026 up to 17.30hrs.**

3) Date for submission of filled tenders from **19.01.2026 to 29.01.2026 up to 17.29 hrs** (during office hours)

Further details on date of opening the tender/detail of work E.M.D. amount/terms and conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the under signed during office hours or in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone no.08182-254832 Information can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P, Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No-155-01/zenkar/2025-26

NATIONAL URBAN HEALTH MISSION
BANGALORE CITY HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY ®
GREATER BANGALORE AUTHORITY
Office of the Chief Health Officer (PH), Annex Building-2, G.B.A Head Officer, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No: CPMO/NUHM/PR/P-70/2025-26 Date: 19.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

The walk-in process has been conducted on 10.11.2025 for filling up the vacant posts under various national programmes of the National Health Mission Scheme on full contract basis for a period of 01 year by issuing a press release on 15.11.2025 In accordance with the said notification, the provisional selection list of candidates selected on the basis of merit cum roster has been published on the website of the Greater Bangalore Authority **(https://bbmp.gov.in)** and a Paper Notification on as reference (01) on 11.12.2025. If there are any objections to the posts in this provisional selection list, a period of 07 government working days (from 11.12.2025 to 19.12.2025) has been given to submit objections. As no objections were received during this period, the said provisional selection list is hereby declared as the final selection list.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (PH)
Greater Bangalore Authority

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
TUMAKURU-572105. Ph:0816-2200209

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Name of work: Operation and Maintenance of Bulk Water Supply system from Housing chamber at Kadaba tank to WTP at Township area and OHT at factory area of HAL for the period of 1(One) year for the 4th year Under DC Works of HAL.
Tender Indent No. KUWSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT472/CALL-2
Amount put to tender: Rs. 64.67 Lakhs (Excluding GST).
Calendar of Events: Last date and Time for receipt of **Tenders:27-01-2026 upto 4.00PM.** Further details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KUWS. & D.Board, Division, TUMAKURU
DIPR/TUM/RO-234/25-26/Oysters

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
www:eepwdsplmys@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ:0821 2492297
ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:16/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಜ಼ರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ನಂ 1 ವಿಶೇಷ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ರವರ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:8443–ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1, 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 4059–80–051–0–32–386 ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು–ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (viz https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in/) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:8443–ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆಯ(ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–01) 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:20.01.2026 ರಿಂದ 03.02.2026 ರವರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು(ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–02) ಹಾಗೂ 4059–80–051–0–32–386 ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ(ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–03) ಒಟ್ಟು 02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿ:20.01.2026 ರಿಂದ 07.02.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ 02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ:29.01.2026 ರಂದು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತರೂ.3.22 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತರೂ.788.63 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.0.0805 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.11.83 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1543/KSMCA/875/2025-26

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
MANDYA-571401
Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone No: 08232-231003, 222086,231197, 224040, Fax-08232-231001
E-mail: mimsmandyaoffice@gmail.com, Website: www.mimsmandya@gmail.com
Ref No: MIMS/Sup- D/E-T/Disposable/12/2025-26 Date: 19.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER BID SYSTEM)

Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya, invites E-tender for Supply of Disposables & Chemicals to the Teaching Hospital (approximate amount **Rs.241.00 Lakhs**) of MIMS Mandya from the Munufacture/s or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Ac-1999 and Rules thereunder. Submission of e-tender and details can be obtained in e-procurement portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-Director
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya
DIPR/MANDYA/SHIRDISAI/727/2025-26

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com
Ref:SJICR/TS/ 45 /2025-26 Date: 21-01-2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through KPP portal of Government of Karnataka:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No./ Indent No.	Particulars
1.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0042 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Drug Items for the Department of Cardiology & C T Surgery.
2.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0043 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Drug Items for the Department of Anesthesiology.
3.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0044 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Chemicals, Reagents & Consumables for the Department of Biochemistry.
4.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0045 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Chemicals, Reagents & Consumables for the Department of Pathology.
5.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0046 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Chemicals, Reagents & Consumables for the Department of Microbiology.
6.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0047 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Chemicals, Reagents & Consumables for Blood Centre.
7.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0048 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Chemicals, Reagents & Consumables for the Department of Radiology.
8.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0039 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Disposables- Non Drugs i.e Catheters, PTCA Guide Wires, PTCA Balloons, Sterile Disposables, Temporary Pacing Leads etc for the Department of Cardiology
9.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0038 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Disposables- Non Drugs i.e Diagnostic Catheters, Sheaths, Guide wires, Contrast Media etc for the Department of Cardiology.
10.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0037 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Disposables Non Drugs for the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery.
11.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0034 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Disposables Non Drugs for the Department of Anesthesiology.
12.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0041 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Disposables - Non Drugs for the Department of CSSD.
13.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0040 Dt. 21-01-2026	Supply of Disposables - Non Drugs for the Department of Electrophysiology.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **28-01-2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **26-02-2026 up to 4-00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **05-02-2026 at 11-30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **27-02-2026 at 4-00 PM.**
4. EMD: **as mentioned in the tender document**
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/5144/2025-26 **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Roll clean-up should not erase real voters

With the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking to correct "logical discrepancies" in the names and family backgrounds of voters in West Bengal, as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, fresh concerns have been raised about the exercise. The Supreme Court has taken note of the "stress and strain" caused to millions of ordinary people. About 1.36 crore people have received notices from the Commission to explain what it calls discrepancies in the voters' list. These include six or more voters identified as progeny of one person, a 15-year age gap between children and parents, a less-than-40-year age gap between grandparents and grandchildren, and mismatches in the spellings of common names and surnames. The Court has made strong observations on the matter and issued directions to ease the processes for people who are struggling to respond to the ECI's questions, so that they remain on the rolls.

A directive from the Court requires the ECI to display the names of voters marked under the "logical discrepancies" category at the gram panchayat bhavans and block offices in rural areas, and ward offices in urban areas. The Court has asked the ECI to allow people likely to be affected by the exercise to submit their documents in these offices, to accept the Class X board examination admit card as a valid document for verification, and to extend the deadline for submitting the documents. These directions were issued after it became evident that the verification process was cumbersome, pushing millions to search for the right documents that prove their identities as voters. These documents are not always easy to procure and the window for submission is narrow. It has been pointed out that only 500 venues are scheduled to host the hearing of 1.36 crore people.

After the ECI flags inconsequential voter-list discrepancies, the SC's intervention signals hope

Many of the discrepancies the Commission claims to have found are not relevant to the exercise it has undertaken. The Court asked the Commission how a 15-year age gap between a parent and a child would be illogical in a country where child marriages are not uncommon. From the beginning, the Commission's efforts in states where SIR was held appear removed from the idea of inclusion – instead of aiming for maximum entries of voters, it seems to follow a model of exclusion. It is to be noted that many "discrepancies" have been traced to the errors in the Commission's 2002 list, for which voters should not be held responsible. Hopefully, the Court's intervention will help to contain the damage and ensure that genuine voters are not disenfranchised.

Classrooms lag behind state's AI ambition

When Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh admitted that she was struggling to find Artificial Intelligence (AI) professionals for government projects, it was a warning of what lies ahead. She said the state no longer had the luxury of "months or years" to prepare. Even premier institutions, such as the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), were unable to supply enough data scientists and AI analysts. For a state that prides itself on being India's technology capital, the admission was sobering. The concern strikes at the heart of Karnataka's digital ambitions. The Information Technology Policy 2025-2030 lays out the bold vision of an "AI-native" economy, with incentives, Global Capability Centres, and integrated enclaves. But policy can only create demand. Without talent, the ecosystem stalls. The gap between aspiration and ability is widening, and it is rooted in education.

Karnataka's education pipeline is not aligned with its technology policy. AI remains largely confined to niche institutions, while the bulk of the system continues to produce general degrees with limited industry relevance. The situation is aggravated by the legacy of the 'One District, One University' experiment, driven more by political optics than academic planning. Many of these institutions neither possess data laboratories nor the academic depth required for cutting-edge disciplines. Several are already on the verge of closure. AI is already embedded in governance – from subsidy rationalisation and fraud detection to traffic surveillance and automated challan generation, pollution monitoring, and education tracking. It has become crucial for governance, enabling real-time decision-making, predictive analytics, and scalable public service delivery. Without in-house expertise, the state risks becoming dependent on external vendors for core public functions, raising costs, security concerns, and strategic vulnerability.

Karnataka needs an education-first reform to bridge the gap between growth potential and talent

The solution lies in an education-first pivot. Karnataka must rapidly scale reskilling through intensive finishing schools and industry-led certification programmes for existing graduates. Simultaneously, AI literacy must begin early, with computational thinking embedded in curricula and a structured programme to train teachers, especially in government-run schools. Instead of multiplying general universities, the state should consolidate resources into specialised vertical institutions focused on AI, cyber security and data science, creating a critical mass of talent and infrastructure. Decentralising this effort beyond Bengaluru – to Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Mangaluru – will widen the talent pool and prevent saturation. If education is treated as a core pillar rather than a support function, Karnataka can move beyond being India's technology back office. With the right talent strategy, it can credibly aspire to become the country's, and perhaps the world's, AI brain.

A FORGOTTEN PROMISE

The quiet retreat of a national institution

The NFCH exists on paper, but functions as an opaque body, far removed from its mandate of communal harmony

SHAMEER RISHAD

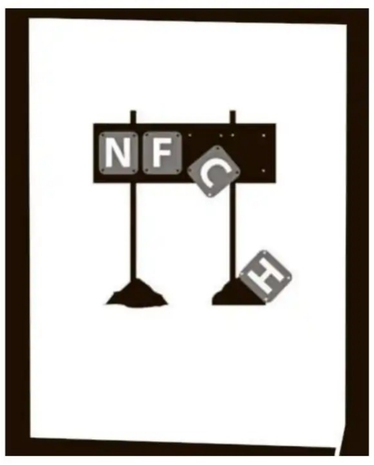
Institutions do not always disappear. Sometimes, they simply stop speaking. While filing a series of RTI applications regarding the Census Commission and the Election Commission of India, I stumbled upon a peculiar public authority on the RTI Online Portal: The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), operating as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its existence felt like a discovery from a different era.

The discovery was, at first, almost ironic, as sadly, we live in a time when "communal violence" is invoked more often as a political instrument than confronted as a social failure. Against this backdrop, it was surprising if not faintly amusing to encounter an actual statutory authority tasked exclusively with nurturing fraternity, brotherhood, secularism, and freedom of religion and belief, as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Unable to quite believe it, I ran a Google search: "Which government organisation works for communal harmony in India?" The answer pointed squarely back to the NFCH. The State apparently had built an entire institution for this purpose. Whether it merely slipped from public conversation or was gradually pushed out is a matter of perspective. The NFCH is not an incidental body. According to its own publicly stated objectives, the Foundation is tasked with supporting victims of communal violence, promoting research on communal harmony, recognising individuals and organisations through national awards, organising interfaith and cultural programmes and conducting public campaigns aimed at strengthening social cohesion. At least it did so as per its last publicly available report for the year 2013-14.

In constitutional terms, its work speaks directly to the value of fraternity embedded in the Preamble. In a climate where social cohesion is under strain, isn't it our duty as right holders to, at the very least, check what the State is doing institutionally to build harmony? Because NFCH occupies this moral and constitutional space, directly impacting the social fabric of our country, transparency becomes non-negotiable. However, the responses received from the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) reveal an unsettling reality of institutional inertia.

The NFCH had constituted awards to recognise champions of peace, selected from a long list by an eminent jury headed by the Vice-President of India. The award consisted of a citation each and a cash amount of Rs 2 lakh for an individual and Rs 5 lakh for an organisation. However, the RTI response reveals a decade-long vacuum: since the National Communal Harmony Award has been discontinued, there have been no applications received or awards conferred during the period



2014-2025. For over ten years, an institution mandated to honour those working for communal bridge-building had not found or sought a single individual or organisation to recognise.

The Foundation was tasked with promoting research on communal harmony. Data shows that between 2005 and 2025, only five research proposals were received and approved. Some anomalies stand out. Even though Rs 2-9 lakh were allocated every year to the scheme, only five research proposals were ever approved over 20 years. For the year 2011-12, although one proposal was approved and Rs 3 lakh was allocated, zero expenditure was incurred. For 2016-17, although no proposals were received and approved, an expenditure of Rs 88,000 was incurred. This suggests that either the scheme existed only in ledgers but ceased to function, or the accountants wanted to balance their sheets and found an easy way to do it at the expense of taxpayers' funds.

The primary activity currently cited by the Foundation is the Communal Harmony Campaign Week and Flag Day. The RTI response indicates that the budget for these activities has grown significantly, from approximately Rs 49 lakh in 2005-06 to a peak of Rs 1.05-1.2 crore in recent years. How does the mere distribution of flags to children and youth, without accompanying educational or community-based interventions, fulfil the complex mandate of building communal harmony? Or is it just an expensive photo-op for the State? Furthermore, no reporting of this exorbitant spending on such campaigns exists post-2020.

The paradox of 'self-sustenance'

A noteworthy reply to a query reveals the Foundation's curious duality. The CPIO describes NFCH as a "self-sustaining organisation" running on public donations, even though it was established by the Government of India in 1992 with a corpus fund of Rs 10 crore, later enhanced to Rs 11 crore in 2004. Now, the reply says, since it runs on public donations, it receives no regular government grants. This position invites a troubling question of accountability. If the Foundation is described as a "self-sustaining" body funded by public donations, yet originally seeded by state capital, why has programmatic transparency steadily dwindled? More concerningly, why was the Foundation's website taken down following RTI scrutiny, in apparent violation of Sections 4(1)(a) and 4(1)(b) of the Right to Information Act, which mandate the maintenance and proactive public disclosure of records by public authorities?

The RTI responses show not abolition, but retreat. In recent years, as the State reevaluates autonomous bodies that exist without outcomes, the NFCH emerges as an institution left to exist in name, while withdrawing from purpose. However, beyond administrative rationalisation lies a deeper question: are we as a nation prepared to let an institution entrusted with preserving communal harmony quietly wither away? If such bodies are to endure, transparency cannot be optional. Silence and opacity are not neutral positions; they communicate priorities.

When the machinery of harmony falls silent, the void is inevitably filled by the noise of discord. At the very least, citizens are entitled to know whether public funds allocated in the name of communal harmony are being utilised meaningfully and whether such institutions remain accountable to the constitutional values they were created to uphold.

(The writer is the convenor of the Javed Abidi Foundation)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When *pethi* changes the pitch of life

A granddaughter evokes a special sense of grandfathership

K G RAGHAVAN

Age is not just a number. It is an important one that helps one to progress from one stage of life to another. It is up to each of us to take note of this and enjoy every stage, realising that life is a one-way traffic. A missed opportunity is lost forever, never to return.

To be a grandfather is one of the most enjoyable phases of one's life. However many times one becomes a grandfather, each experience is unique. I was no exception. I have been a "boy grandfather" twice over, and now comes a third opportunity to be a "girl grandfather". Being the father of two daughters was itself a feeling.

Having a granddaughter for the first time was an entirely different feeling. It is deeply emotional, a feeling for which there is no language. In such a state, language becomes an eternal beggar.

It is true that grandsons and granddaughters belong to the same genre of grandchildren. But a granddaughter is truly grand. Whether or not this can be analytically backed by reasons or logic, a granddaughter evokes a different feeling and a special sense of grandfathership. An anonymous quote captures this beautifully, "My dear granddaughter, you are the rainbow that colours my life with happiness."

The feeling of being a grandparent is ecstatic. No wonder a set of grandparents once proudly displayed on their car windscreen: "How we wish we had our grandchildren before we had our children!"

In my family, the elders always looked upon daughters and granddaughters somewhat differently—and preferentially—than us. I often wondered why. I did not have an answer then, but now I do. It is simply because they are what they are. I once carried a grievance; not anymore. Some feelings have to be experienced, not explained. How does one describe the pleasant smell of a rose? One needs to smell it to truly enjoy it. This is what my father told me, and so did my grandfather.

Pethi (granddaughter in Tamil) automatically evokes a different tune and pitch than *peran* (grandson), both in teller and the hearer.

Today, I enjoy the gurgles and cries of this little angel more than I ever did before. William Shakespeare aptly observed in *Much Ado about Nothing:*

"There is little of the melancholy element in her, my lord: she is never sad but when she sleeps; and not ever sad then; for I have heard my daughter say, she had often dreamt of unhappiness, and waked herself with laughing."

And so, justifiably, there is much ado about a granddaughter. Cheers to all girl grandfathers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A step backwards in election process

The State Election Commission's decision to use ballot papers for the upcoming civic body elections under the GBA is a retrograde step. The SEC is acting on a recommendation made by the state cabinet last year. The Congress party has been raising concerns about EVMs, though without substantiating evidence. The SEC cites the GBA Act, which allows elections to be conducted by either paper ballot or EVM. Conducting elections by ballot papers would be cumbersome and time-consuming. Counting votes cast by ballot papers is tedious and prone to errors, particularly with doubtful and invalid votes, a problem largely avoided by EVMs. This often leads to demands for recounts. EVMs are even more crucial in local body polls, where winning margins can be slim, sometimes in single digits. Perhaps the ruling Congress party believes ballot papers are more susceptible to manipulation in its favour. The party has accused the ECI and CEC of acting in favour of the ruling dispensation at the Centre; could the same criticism be levelled against the state SEC?
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Respect democracy

Your editorial, 'The missing restraint in campaign rhetoric' (Jan 21), rightly calls out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unrestrained campaign rhetoric. He often speaks as the BJP's spokesperson rather than the country's PM. Attacking the Trinamool Congress over alleged Bangladeshi infiltration, he overlooks the BSF's role under the Union Home Ministry. This reflects an outdated "king can do no wrong" mindset. Another concern is that PM Modi has not held a single press conference since taking office. He should respect democracy, its institutions, and principles, aligning with India's claim as the world's largest democracy.
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Be inclusive

The Election Commission's defence of the Special Intensive Revision as "legislative" is worrying. While cleaning voter rolls is important, turning verification into a quasi-law risks excluding genuine citizens through paperwork and technicalities. Democracy should rest on trust and inclusion, not suspicion. The EC must ensure that, in the name of integrity, it doesn't undermine participation. A transparent, humane, and uniform process is needed.
Kaavya Kapoor, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Vijay will become CM in 2026. His rule will serve as a role model for other states, this will be a golden era for Tamil Nadu.
CTR Nirmal Kumar, TVK leader

Hope is sweet-minded and sweet-eyed. It draws pictures; it weaves fancies; it fills the future with delight.
Henry Ward Beecher

TO BE PRECISE

Rs 21-crore Surat water tank collapses before inauguration

IN PERSPECTIVE

A strategic race for critical minerals

India's vision for the sector should be centred on a repositioning of these raw materials as national resources

PRABHAKAR SANGURMATH

Globally, critical minerals are increasingly recognised as strategic assets rather than conventional commodities, particularly as the mining industry faces growing pressure to deliver higher production with reduced energy, water, and environmental footprints. India, endowed with a wide variety of mineral resources, stands at a pivotal juncture. The strategic challenge lies not merely in locating these resources but in systematically exploring, mining, processing, and integrating them into the domestic value chains to drive national growth, employment, energy security, and strategic autonomy.

Countries designate minerals as critical based on their economic priorities, industrial requirements, technological ambitions, security considerations, and natural endowments. In line with this approach, the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, identified 30 critical minerals in 2023. These are antimony, beryllium, bismuth, cadmium, cobalt, copper, gallium, germanium, graphite, hafnium, indium, lithium, molybdenum, niobium, nickel, platinum group elements (PGEs), phosphorus, potash, rare earth elements (REEs), rhenium, silicon, strontium, tantalum, tellurium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, zirconium, and selenium. These minerals form the backbone of technologies that support electric mobility, clean energy systems, electronics, and India's defence and aerospace sectors.

India's emphasis on critical minerals is closely aligned with its long-term development objectives and climate commitments. Achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 necessitates a gradual but substantial transition towards renewable energy, electric mobility, grid-scale energy storage, and other low-carbon technologies. This transition is inherently mineral-intensive, with lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper, and rare earth elements playing key roles in batteries, power electronics, electric motors, and wind energy systems. Ensuring secure, affordable, and diversified access to these minerals is, therefore, essential for meeting climate goals while strengthening industrial competitiveness.

This evolving mineral strategy is reshaping the country's approach to energy security, industrial growth, and strategic independence. Although often invisible in everyday life, critical minerals are indispensable inputs for clean energy technologies, advanced electronics, and defence systems, making them central to the trajectory of India's future development.

From a policy and technology perspective, India's expanding research and innovation ecosystem represents a significant strength. Current efforts span the entire value chain, from exploration and mineral processing to the recovery of metals from end-of-life batteries, electronic waste, and industrial scrap. Technologies for extracting lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, precious metals, tungsten, and other critical elements are increasingly transitioning from laboratory-scale research to industrial applications, supporting import substitution and circular economy objectives.

To provide focused and coordinated direction to these efforts, the Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in January 2025. With a budgetary outlay of Rs 16,300 crore and an expected investment of Rs 18,000 crore, the mission seeks to strengthen domestic capabilities across the full value chain – from exploration and mining to processing, recycling, and downstream manufacturing – thereby enhancing energy security and supply-chain resilience.

Policies must meet rising demand

Global developments underscore the urgency of these initiatives. According to the International Energy Agency's Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025, the demand for minerals used in batteries and low-carbon technologies is projected to increase sharply under net-zero scenarios. This spike is likely to intensify global competition for secure supplies. The demand for lithium is expected to rise by about six times by 2030, 14 times by 2040, and 17 times by 2050, while the demand for nickel may grow by about six times by 2030 and seven times by 2040. Manganese and rare earth elements also show substantial long-term growth trends, reflecting their expanding roles in energy storage, electric mobility, and advanced manufacturing. The demand for copper is projected to increase steadily, driven by electrification and renewable energy deployment.

In support of investment and transparent resource governance, the Government of India revised royalty rates for select critical minerals in June 2025. Concurrently, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) is implementing around 227 critical mineral projects during 2025-26, while government and private exploration agencies, industry, research institutions, and academia are encouraged to pursue domestic exploration as well as overseas mineral assets.

While the development of critical minerals presents significant technical, environmental, and economic challenges, it also offers opportunities for innovation, advanced technology adoption, and sustainable practices. Realising this potential will depend on coherent policies, institutional coordination, and proactive decision-making. Ultimately, critical minerals must be treated not as ordinary raw materials, but as strategic national assets. Decisions taken today – on exploration, mining, processing, recycling, refining, and international partnerships – will shape India's ability to build a resilient, sustainable, and technologically advanced economy.

(The writer, a former executive director of The Hutti Gold Mines Co Ltd., is currently with the National Institute of Advanced Studies)

Manipur waits as BJP's search for consensus hits ethnic fault lines

DATELINE Guwahati

SUMIR KARMAKAR

For many in the Bharatiya Janata Party in conflict-torn Manipur, the meeting between four of the party's seven MLAs from the Kuki communities and their Meitei counterparts on December 14 was a rare "political icebreaker". It was their first such interaction since the conflict involving the two communities erupted more than two-and-a-half years ago.

At the time, many within the party believed that the BJP high command might finally give the green signal to their repeated pleas for the restoration of a "popular government", especially given what was described as a "positive response" from the Kuki legislators.

More than a month later, however, Manipur's political atmosphere remains wrapped in speculation and uncertainty. The BJP is still unable to reach a consensus on restoring an elected government, even as President's Rule in the state completes one year on February 13. "When will the popular government be formed?" "Who will become the next CM?" Such questions continue to hang unanswered, despite repeated rounds of meetings between BJP leaders, both in the state and in New Delhi.

Tough stand of the Kukis

Days after the four Kuki MLAs met their Meitei counterparts to discuss government formation, Kuki organisations – including armed groups under the suspension of operations agreement – issued a warning. "No individual from the Kuki-Zo communities, including legislators, would be part of a Meitei-led government," the groups said.

On January 13, the Kuki groups held a meeting with a few Kuki MLAs in Guwahati, where it was decided that the community would support a government only if a "written commitment" was given for fulfilling their demand for the creation of a Union Territory with a legislature comprising Kuki-inhabited areas. The groups set 2027—the year of the next Assembly elections—as the deadline for meeting this demand. For the Kuki groups, a Union Territory remains the "only way forward" to end the conflict that has roiled the state since May 2023.

This position has prolonged the political stalemate, as the Centre has repeatedly made it clear that the present government policy does not support the creation of a new Union Territory.

Numerically, the BJP could still form a government. With 30 Meitei and Naga MLAs in the 60-member House, the party can form their government with the support of five Naga People's Front MLAs and the Independents. The BJP high command, however, is keen on securing Kuki support to project an "inclusive" government.

CM face undecided

The BJP's inability to decide on a chief ministerial candidate has remained another major hurdle to restoring the government. On January 17, former Chief Minister N Biren Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, where he was reportedly informed about objections raised by several BJP legislators to his leadership.

President's Rule was promulgated after Biren Singh resigned and the party's MLAs failed to arrive at a consensus candidate to replace him. At the time, at least four leaders were in contention for the top post.

According to BJP sources, Yumnam Khemchand Singh—the former Speaker and a minister in the Biren Cabinet—has now emerged as a strong contender. Khemchand is said to enjoy the backing of the RSS, while at least four Kuki MLAs reportedly want Biren Singh to return as the CM. Sources also said that Khemchand has met BJP leaders in New Delhi and Guwahati more than once since the December 14 meeting.

President's Rule

President's Rule was promulgated in Manipur on February 13 last year, with the Assembly placed under suspension. The imposition was extended by both Houses of the parliament in August. This extension will lapse on February 13, and the same may have to be extended for another six months if BJP fails to restore the government. President's Rule can be extended up to three years. BJP leaders in the state, however, are worried about possible adverse impact on the party's prospects in the next elections in 2027. "Our support base is shrinking fast given the inability to end the conflict and restore the government," a BJP leader in Imphal told *DH*. **DHNS**

Low clouds have lifted long enough for helicopters to ferry scientists and their gear to a fast-melting glacier on the edge of Antarctica

A new outpost springs up at the bottom of the world

RAYMOND ZHONG

The view from inside a tent at a camp on the Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica. Thwaites, often called the 'doomsday glacier,' holds enough ice to raise global sea levels by more than two feet if it were to collapse entirely. THE NEW YORK TIMES

After a series of weather delays threatened to derail their mission, scientists on Monday managed at last to set up camp on Antarctica's remote and fast-melting Thwaites Glacier. For the next few weeks, they will be attempting a difficult but vital operation.

They aim to bore half a mile through the ice and place instruments in the warming ocean waters below, giving the world a rare, close-up look at how this gargantuan glacier is being corroded by the sea. Researchers fear that Thwaites' thinning could someday trigger its total collapse, which would raise sea levels around the globe.

The break in the weather couldn't have come soon enough. After crossing the southern seas and reaching Thwaites early this month, researchers were unable to travel the last 19 miles to their planned research site because helicopters from their ship, the icebreaker Araon, couldn't land on the cloud-swathed ice.

Now that the scientists and their roughly 17 tons of gear have been flown safely onto the glacier, they have no time to waste.

Their drilling equipment will take a week to set up. Blizzards could slow their work. Whether or not their scientific goals are achieved, the team's 10 members need to be off the glacier by Feb. 7, when the Araon must begin its return journey to New Zealand. The ship is scheduled to embark another Antarctic voyage shortly after this one wraps up.

"We're very lucky to be here; we also work very hard to be here," said Scott Polfrey, a mechanical engineer at the British Antarctic Survey and member of the drilling team. "It's important for everybody here that we do things safely and we come home with hopefully some hard-hitting scientific results that speak about our planet."

When asked, during a break from moving gear at the camp, whether he had any first-night rituals while working on glaciers, Peter Davis, an oceanographer on the team, said, "Probably collapse, because everyone is just always knackered, absolutely knackered, after the first day."

The big haul started late Sunday afternoon, when the clouds parted and the Araon's two helicopters flew a dozen loads of cargo onto the glacier. The helicopters ferried more freight and people Monday, and by 4 p.m., the scientists and engineers were putting up tents, unpacking supplies and shovelling snow.

On Monday evening, as Chang W. Lee, my photographer colleague, and I were being flown onto Thwaites, the team's camp first appeared as specks on the colossal white plateau, insignificant next to the enormous crevasses that furrowed its snowy surface.

The camp sits on a flat, 650-foot-long strip of ice, with boundaries that the team marked with flags and willow branches stuck into the hard, icy snow. Its wider end, roughly 160 feet across, is where the drill will be set up. Its narrower end is where 10 single-occupancy sleeping tents have been pitched in a neat row.

The team will eat in a mess tent that has an air fryer, a bread machine and an assortment of low-effort meals, including freeze-dried chicken *fajita* bowls and quick-cooking Korean beef and radish soup. Two toilet tents are as simple as it gets: a lidded seat propped up over a deep hole in the snow. Power for their drilling and camp equipment comes from several generators.

One important task Monday was piling snow around the edges of the tents so they didn't blow away. Another was digging a big hole for burying the team's coolers of frozen meat and vegetables. "Obviously we're in the world's best freezer," said Taff Raymond, one of the team's two safety guides.

Around 6:15 pm, the air at the camp was 24.8 degrees Fahrenheit, or minus 4 degrees Celsius. The snow dampened all sound. Skuas patrolled the area, the seabirds alighting on the wooden crates and steel chests that had so rudely invaded their domain.

The scientists' camp sits in a modest depression in Thwaites' surface, giving the landscape more shape and variety than it seemed to have from the sky. To the north, the sun caught the jagged crests of what looked like distant mountains. In fact, they were the tops of the gigantic, fast-deteriorating icebergs that are all that's left of Thwaites' western tongue. The glacier had engulfed us in all dimensions; we were mere specks on the giant's back.

Still, it's what's happening thousands of feet below, not at the icy surface, that made the team want to drill at this spot.

Warm ocean currents are constantly flowing into the waters under Thwaites and melting the glacier's undersides. Large plumes of freshwater are also escaping from gaps between the glacier and the bedrock, where underground heat and friction are melting the ice at its base. All these waters mix and muddle under Thwaites, affecting where and how quickly the glacier thins.

Such complexities help explain why scientists have at times observed Antarctic ice melting at two or three times the rates predicted by mathematical models, said Ji Sung Na, a senior researcher at the Korea Polar Research Institute who is part of the drilling team.

Only by collecting sustained measurements in the water under the ice can scientists improve their models and better project future melting, Na said.

Several members of the drilling team bored a hole through Thwaites' eastern ice shelf for a similar purpose in 2020. An expedition two years later to drill in another area was foiled by sea ice, which blocked the Araon from sailing close enough to Thwaites for the scientists to travel to their planned research site.

Davis, the oceanographer, last camped on the glacier in 2020. "We thought that was going to be the most complex terrain we'd ever work on," he said. "Little did we know." He was referring to the fractured and fast-moving ice beneath this year's campsite, which has already caused a scare.

The drilling team's safety guides, Raymond and Jinsuk Kim, slept on the glacier Sunday night, before their colleagues were flown in. They were standing at the camp's wider end, they said, when they heard a terrible loud crunching noise beneath their feet. The ice below the surface was breaking apart.

The guides tightened the camp's boundaries, probably not for the last time.

"My goal is finishing as fast as we can," Kim said, of the drilling operation. "We need to leave as fast as we can."

Yet urgency, the scientists said, is inseparable from purpose. Thwaites, often called the "doomsday glacier," holds enough ice to raise global sea levels by more than two feet if it were to collapse entirely, and it acts as a buttress for even larger glaciers behind it. If Thwaites gives way, those inland ice masses could accelerate toward the ocean, compounding the threat to coastal cities worldwide.

That makes the measurements taken here — of temperature, salinity, currents and turbulence beneath the ice—far more than academic. They are among the few direct observations scientists have of the hidden processes eating away at Antarctica from below.

Satellites can track surface changes, but they cannot see how seawater slips into cavities under the ice or how meltwater alters ocean circulation there.

The instruments lowered through the borehole will record data long after the team departs, transmitting clues about how fast the glacier is changing during the Antarctic winter, when darkness and sea ice make direct study impossible.

Each data point, the researchers hope, will sharpen projections used by governments and planners thousands of miles away.

As the sun traced slow circles above the horizon late Monday night, the camp settled into a fragile routine. The glacier creaked occasionally, a reminder of the forces at work beneath the scientists' boots. For now, Thwaites was holding. But how long it will continue to do so is the question that brought them to its surface—and that keeps them drilling against the clock.

The New York Times

How AI is rewriting careers for developers

ARAVIND PUTREVU

Every few years, the technology industry produces an "end of programming" headline. Today, the role is played by generative AI. The reality is more nuanced. AI will not end developer careers. What it will end are parts of the job one could get away with doing slowly. Developers whose value lies in turning tickets into boilerplate are exposed. Those who can turn ambiguity into reliable, shipped outcomes are likely to become more valuable.

What the AI boom actually changes

Coding is getting cheaper. Engineering is not. AI makes writing code dramatically fast, but speed alone does not improve reliability, security, performance, cost efficiency, or user experience. In fact, in many cases it can degrade them, because scale encourages volume over judgment. The bottleneck is no longer whether code can be written, but whether the right thing is being built—and built correctly.

■ Junior roles will change, not disappear

A lot of entry-level work used to be small, well-scoped tasks: CRUD screens, simple bug fixes, and repetitive tests. AI can now produce these in minutes. As a result, companies will expect juniors to operate at a higher level: understand requirements, handle edge cases, add instrumentation, and ship with confidence much earlier than before.

The differentiator at the entry level will increasingly be judgment: knowing what to ask, what to verify, and what to ship.

■ "Prompt engineering" is not a career

Prompts are cheap. Repeatable workflows that produce correct output are not. What will matter is the ability to integrate artificial intelligence into disciplined engineering systems: generate with constraints, validate with tests and linting, run evaluations to catch regressions, and embed guardrails into continuous integration and continuous delivery/deployment (CI/CD) pipelines.

In practice, AI should be treated like a tireless junior developer: helpful and never exempt from review.

When code generation is abundant, the differentiator shifts to those who can review, critique, and improve code quickly, especially code they did not write. The ability to spot failure modes and write tests that protect behaviour becomes a career moat.

AI can draft code. It still struggles to predict what will break under real traffic at inconvenient hours.

■ Product thinking moves from optional to essential

AI enables smaller teams to ship more. That raises expectations. Developers who succeed will operate like mini product leaders: engaging with users, clarifying constraints, prioritising outcomes, and measuring impact.

This shit is relevant in India, where many tech careers have been shaped by delivery models focused on "hours shipped". The market is moving to "outcomes shipped", and AI accelerates that shift. The safest place to stand is closer to the customer problem.

■ The real new stack is AI, data, and distribution

Most useful AI products are not just 'LLM calls'. They are systems that combine data pipelines, retrieval and search, caching, privacy controls, latency management, cost control, and observability. What matters is practical literacy: understanding how models fail (hallucinations and prompt injection), how quality is measured through evaluations and human feedback, and how to ship safely through access control, audit logs, and red-teaming).

■ A polarised market

There will be fewer roles that purely "implement what's written" and more roles that demand ownership: define the approach, ship it, keep it healthy, and explain trade-offs. Mid-level engineers who don't level up in judgement, debugging, and product thinking will feel squeezed. Senior engineers who can combine architecture, speed, and accountability will be scarce and well paid.

The new advantage

AI multiplies output. Careers will reward that multiplier effect. The developer who can ship a meaningful feature in a week, with tests, monitoring, and a clear user story, will outperform the developer who can implement ten endpoints without clarity on why. The new currency is not lines of code. It is velocity with accountability.

For developers who adapt, artificial intelligence is an accelerator. Used as a crutch, it leads to stagnation. Used well, it enables faster learning, better systems, and earlier leadership.

(The writer is VP of growth at an AI-powered code review platform)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Tiwari sworn in UP CM

Lucknow, January 21
Mr. Narain Dutt Tiwari was today sworn in as the ninth Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh since independence by the Governor Dr. M. Chenna Reddy. Mr. Tiwari heads a 30-member Council of Ministers -- 14 Ministers of Cabinet rank and 16 Ministers of State-- whose members too were sworn in by the Governor in the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan. Mr. Shanti Prapana Sharma is the only new Minister inducted into the Cabinet. The other 12 ministers, besides Mr. Tewari, were members of the Bahuguna Ministry which resigned in November last.

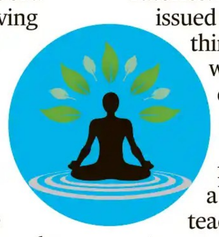
25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

9 killed in J&K as militants blast bus, target troops

Srinagar, Jan 21 (PTI, UNI)
In escalated violence ahead of the Republic Day, militants today set off a landmine blast which ripped through a bus and in another incident attacked a security patrol with grenades. A total of nine people were killed even as security forces shot dead six militants in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir. The ultras also made an abortive bid to blow up the ruling National Conference (NC) head- quarters at Residency Road here, an official spokesman said. Six people were killed and 19 injured when militants blasted a State Road Transport Corporation bus.

OASIS | ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

In the beginning, there was a dream



We often applaud the finish line—the gold medal, the global empire, the scientific breakthrough—yet we overlook the quiet, restless minds where it all began. Success is never a mere coincidence; it is a deliberate harvest of the aspirations we sow in the fertile soil of our subconscious.

Our greatness follows a sacred evolution. It begins with a modest Dream—a defiant spark within us that ignores the limitations of "what is" to imagine "what could be." When we fuel this dream with intent, it solidifies into Effort. Through our relentless grit, that internal blueprint finally crystallises into Achievement.

In our history, the most profound dreams are those that ignite social change. Rabindranath Tagore didn't just write poetry; he dreamt of a classroom without walls, giving birth to Shantiniketan and liberating our collective intellect.

When the world doubted our nation's reach, Dr Vikram Sarabhai envisioned a space-faring India from a humble village church. Today, our rockets touch the moon because we dared to look past the horizon.

Similarly, Dhirubhai Ambani dreamt of democratising wealth, transforming millions into partners in progress. He proved that when we dream, our shared destiny shifts.

Our minds are the ultimate laboratories. Robert F Kennedy famously issued the challenge to "dream of things that never were and ask, why not?"—reminding us that our imagination is the true precursor to justice.

Walt Disney, despite facing rejection, refused to abandon his magical world, teaching us that if we can dream it, we can truly do it.

Consider Wilma Rudolph, who was told she would never walk again. She didn't just dream of walking; she dreamt of sprinting. That inner fire carried her to three Olympic gold medals. Her journey confirms a timeless truth: we become great achievers only when we become great dreamers who refuse to wake up.

Our success isn't about battling the world; it's about nurturing the courage to imagine a better one. Our aspirations are the blueprints of our coming reality. To achieve the extraordinary tomorrow, we must dare to dream the "impossible" today.

The brightest flame in our history began as a single spark that refused to be extinguished by the surrounding cold. Our dreams are the architects; our unwavering spirit is the builder. Let us stop waiting for the right moment and start building from within, for our dream is the masterpiece the world is waiting for.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(Building)	BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3294/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	1	Rs. 19,51,474/- / Rs. 24,400/-	04-02-2026 Upto 4.00 PM	05-02-2026 after 4.00 PM
		BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3292/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026	2	Rs. 22,82,188/- / Rs. 45,645/-		
		BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3290/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026	3	Rs. 15,40,287/- / Rs. 38,508/-		
		BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3284/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026	4	Rs. 12,30,603/- / Rs. 30,766/-		
		BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3288/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026 (Reserved for Category-II(A))	5	Rs. 12,30,602/- / Rs. 15,400/-		
		BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3266/2025-26 Dated: 16-01-2026 (Reserved for SC Category)	6	Rs. 24,79,823/- / Rs. 24,800/-		
		BWSSB/EE(Building)/ PB/3286/2025-26 Dated: 17-01-2026	7	Rs. 12,30,602/- / Rs. 30,766/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

2	(North-West-1)	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/ 4681/2025-26 Dated: 21-01-2026	1	Rs. 79,72,211/- / Rs. 1,60,000/-	05-02-2026 Upto 5.00 PM	06-02-2026 After 5.15 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-West-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/5145/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division,
Near Ramakrishna Hegde Park, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage,
Bengaluru-560 072.

No. BWCC/EE/RRND/Tend/03/2025-26 Date: 21.01.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.37, Peenya in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(SC).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
2.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.38, Lakshmidevinagara in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 68,500/-.**
3.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.39, Laggere in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 68,500/-.**
4.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.40, Chowdeshwari Nagara in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 68,500/-.**
5.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.41, Kottigepalya in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(ST).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
6.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.42, Srigandakavalu in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 68,500/-.**
7.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.43, Mallathahalli in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 68,500/-.**
8.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.44, Jnanabharathi in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(SC).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
9.	Desilting & Maintenance Works in Ward No.45, Rajarajeshwarinagara in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division for the year 2025-26 **(CAT-II)(A).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 27.31, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
10.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.37, Peenya for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 41,500/-.**
11.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.38, Lakshmidevi Nagara for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 41,500/-.**
12.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.39, Laggere for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(SC).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
13.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.40, Chowdeshwari Nagara for the year 2025-26 in n Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 41,500/-.**
14.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.41, Kottigepalya for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(CAT-I).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
15.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.42, Srigandakavalu for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(SC).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
16.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.43, Mallathahalli for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(CAT-II)(A).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 34,500/-.**
17.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.44, Jnanabharathi for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 41,500/-.**
18.	Pothole Filling Works in Ward No.45, Rajarajeshwarinagara for the year 2025-26 in Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 16.43, EMD Amount in ₹ 41,500/-.**
19.	Removal of Unauthorised Building Construction and Advertisement Boards in Ward No. 45, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 50.00, EMD Amount in ₹ 1,25,000/-.**
20.	Construction of New Yoga Centre and Library Building in Ward No. 44, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, 12th Block, Jnanabharathi. **(Others).** **Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) 61.50, EMD Amount in ₹ 1,24,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from **29.01.2026. (2)** Pre bid for 2 cover tender meeting will be held on **02.02.2026 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer, BWCC, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes, RR Nagar, Bengaluru-560 098. **(3)** Tender must be submitted online on **05.02.2026 before 4:00 p.m. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on **06.02.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if Possible). **(5)** Financial Bids will be opened on **07.02.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if Possible).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BWCC.

RTO official suspended for renewing vehicle FCs sans physical verification

They passed through Guj toll plazas on day of issuing form 38(A)

BENGALURU, DHNS

The commissioner for transport and road safety has suspended a senior motor vehicle inspector for illegally renewing fitness certificates of vehicles from Gujarat.

The vehicle inspector in question, Nisar Ahmed, was suspened followed orders by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

The e-detection team of the Gujarat state transport department examined the data available on the vehicle e-detection portal and found that after 41 vehicles were inspected at RTOs in Karnataka and issued form 38(A) (fitness certificate), those very vehicles had passed through toll plazas located in Gujarat on the same day.

It was also reported by the deputy director, office of the transport commissioner, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, that these approvals were granted by Ahmed.

After this matter came to the notice of the minister, he instructed the commissioner to take appropriate action. Accordingly, the commissioner directed the joint transport commissioner of Bengaluru city to submit a report.

The report confirmed that, as per the department's Vahan 4.0 software, Ahmed, posted at Bengaluru central (KA 01) RTO, had renewed fitness certificates of vehicles in form 38(A). The report found that the 41 vehicles had passed through toll plazas in Gujarat on the very day the inspections were purportedly conducted. This clearly indicated that Form 38(A) was approved illegally without physically inspecting the vehicles.

Thus, it was prima facie evident that the Motor Vehicles Act and rules were violated and that Ahmed committed dereliction of duty by approving the fitness certificates without physical inspection of the vehicles.

SOPs for FC renewal

In a circular, the transport commissioner specified Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed for the inspection of vehicles before FC renewal.

Vehicles coming in for FC renewal must be inspected by senior inspectors of the designated RTO.

The senior inspector must take a photograph of himself, along with the vehicle and submit it to the registration authority. The vehicle's number plate must be visible in the photograph, along with the GPS location. These will be checked by the respective in-charge officers. The office heads will personally inspect and supervise at least 20% of the vehicles.

Joint transport commissioners of all divisions shall ensure that the above standards are properly implemented during office inspections and monthly meetings and submit a monthly report to the transport commissioner.

The renewal of the qualification certificate of vehicles from other states should be personally supervised by the head of the office after physical inspection by the senior inspector.

Guv refuses to address session; govt may go to court

Guv, From Page 1

Patil pointed out that Articles 176(1) and 163 of the Constitution mandate the Governor to read out the speech prepared by the Cabinet. Later, Patil met Siddaramaiah and it was decided that the 11 paragraphs cannot be summarily dropped, except for two sentences. Slamming the Congress, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said Governors are not spokespersons of the government.

"Under Articles 175 and 176, Governors can address the legislature. However, there's no rule that Governors must compulsorily read every single word in the script prepared by the government," Ashoka argued. "If the Congress has written a mandatory rule in its own constitution that Governors must voice the government's bundle of lies, that's a different matter. But there's no such provision in the Indian Constitution."

Former Advocate General B V Acharya said it's entirely left to the Governor to not read some portions.

"Calcutta High Court has said earlier that it doesn't matter if the Governor doesn't read some parts. But, the Governor reading the speech during the commencement of the session is mandatory as per article 176." However, Acharya felt it would be a "Constitutional breakdown" if the Governor doesn't come at all. "If they proceed with the Assembly without the Governor coming, it will be an open question whether that decision will be valid."

Former Advocate General Raviverma Kumar said the Governor is only an instrument to convey the wish of the government. "Under Article 176, it's a constitutional duty cast on the Governor to read the speech. If he fails to do it, I feel the Governor can be censured by the House. What he is reading is the opinion of the council of ministers. He cannot import his personal opinion. He isn't an agent of the Centre. He's the Constitutional head of the state to act under the aid and advice of the Council of ministers," he added.

RCB reluctant to play at Chinnaswamy

RCB, from Page 1

"We are considering these parameters and inputs from all stakeholders before arriving at a responsible decision for the team and our fans," stated RCB, who have reportedly zeroed in on Mumbai and Raipur for their home matches.

Prasad, while asking RCB to play all their home matches at Chinnaswamy, categorically stated the ball was in the franchise's court. The former India pacer also hoped RCB engage with the government for smooth conduct of the matches just as KSCA have over the last few weeks. "So far, it has been only one-sided. It is also the responsibility of RCB to take this dialogue forward and play here rather than take the game away from Bengaluru.

"They have grown to this level only because of having played in Bengaluru and the Bengaluru crowd. So, I have asked them to come and play here."

KSCA officials held meetings with CM Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar and Home Minister G Parameshwara, who formed an Expert Committee under the Greater Bengaluru Authority chairman Maheshwar Rao to look into the implementation of the Justice Michael D'Cunha panel's recommendations.

The D'Cunha panel was tasked with investigating the June 4 stampede that left 11 fans dead and several injured during RCB's victory celebrations. On Saturday, the state Home Department had permitted KSCA to host international and IPL matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium, provided they met certain conditions in a time-bound manner.

US will not use force to take Greenland, says Trump

Trump, from Page 1

Trump said that Greenland, which is a Danish territory, has a strategic location between the US, Russia, and China. "The US needs it for strategic reasons, not for rare earth minerals."

Only the US can protect Greenland, and many European nations have also acquired territories; there is nothing wrong with it. "We were a powerful force when we saved Greenland and gave it to Denmark after World War II, but we are much more powerful now", Trump said. Trump also called for immediate negotiations for the US to acquire Greenland from Denmark, describing the country as ungrateful, during his speech at Davos. The US President had earlier threatened to impose a 10% tariff on European countries opposing his plan to take control of Greenland. The President also spoke on the US' economic strength and global prosperity, saying "the USA is the economic engine of the planet...we want to protect brilliant people because there are not many." He said the money, which America is getting from tariffs, is being used judiciously for the country and its people. "When America booms, the entire world booms." Trump began his speech by greeting 'so many friends' and 'a few enemies'.

He said Americans are very happy about electing him, observing, "two years ago, we were a dead country, but now we are alive again."

"We are raising taxes on foreign nations to recover damages they have caused to us," Trump said, adding the US has made some great trade deals. "Everyone knows when the US grows, you will follow." The President also took a dig at environment lobby, saying China is selling windmills to "stupid people in Europe and making fortunes."

Observing that he did not see any windmills in China, Trump said, "Windmills kill birds, destroy landscapes, and stupid people buy them...You are supposed to make money with energy, not lose it. People lose money when windmills come up on their land."

'Translate central laws into Kannada'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said on Wednesday that central laws have to be completely translated into Kannada by November 1.

Speaking during an event to launch the digital versions of the Code of Civil Procedure, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhitha, Patil expressed disappointment that merely 50% of the central laws had been translated till now.

Doctor held for murdering uncle, aunt with anaesthetic shot

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: The Old Town police in Bhadravathi arrested on Wednesday an ayurvedic doctor for allegedly murdering his uncle and aunt by administering them a high dose of anaesthetic injection.

The suspect, GP Mallesh (44), a resident of Holehonnur, was arrested within 24 hours after the alleged crime came to light, police said.

Chandrappa (78) and Jayamma (75) were found dead at their house on Tuesday, prompting the police to register a case of suspicious deaths. The couple's three sons were living separately. The suspect Mallesh is the son of the younger brother of Chandrappa. He was working at a hospital. It is learnt that he was fired from the job recently. Mallesh, who was reportedly in a huge debt, had asked Chandrappa to lend him Rs 15 lakh, but the latter refused. Angered by this, the suspect allegedly hatched a plan to murder the couple and steal their money.

Police said the couple was suffering from knee pain and the suspect had told them that he would administer an injection to relieve them of pain. Mallesh, who had come to the victims' house on Monday, gave them a heavy dose of propofol (50 mg) of anaesthesia, which killed the couple instantly. The suspect then fled the house after stealing jewellery and cash.

SP B Nikhil said the police found no sign of forcible entry at the house. They also found the couple's medical reports on a table. These clues lead them to the suspect.

Microfinance accounts in state cross 1 cr, portfolio Rs 58K cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka currently has 1,07,79,050 active microfinance loan accounts with a portfolio of nearly Rs 57,989.57 crore, establishing it as a leading state for the microfinance industry.

The top five districts by number of accounts are Belagavi, Mysuru, Bengaluru (Rural and Urban), Tumukuru and Mandya, while in terms of portfolio size, Bengaluru (rural and urban), Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Mandya lead the state, according to data presented at Microfinance Karnataka Summit 2026 on Wednesday.

Pankaj Naik, director of banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), India Ratings, said: "Due to the ongoing climate change, it is important that microfunding climate is taken into consideration as many people lose their business to natural calamities."

During the summit, panel discussions on microfinance and inclusive growth focused on increasing employment opportunities and rural economies and the role of microfunding in strengthening micro enterprises and supporting rural livelihoods in Karnataka.

Jiji Mammen, executive director and CEO of Sa-Dhan, said, "Microfinance's ability to bounce back after the Covid-19 pandemic challenge demonstrates the fundamental strength and critical role of community connect in financial service delivery." Experts said microfinance remained a powerful tool for supporting women entrepreneurs, particularly in backward and rural areas and industries aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs through credit linkage, market access and capacity building have shown promising results with 30% increase in average incomes of beneficiaries.

The summit was organised by the Association of Karnataka Microfinance Institutions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ('**Client**') is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable properties morefully described in the '**Schedule**' hereunder and are hereinafter collectively referred to as the '**Schedule Properties**' with the owners listed in the table hereinbelow ('**Owners**'). The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions in the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties is/ are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the sale transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands and measuring in total **17 Acres 09 Guntas, all situated at Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk,** Bangalore Rural District and described in the table below:

DODDADENAHALLI VILLAGE

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundaries	Name of the Owner/s
1.	67	02	30	**East by :** Property bearing Survey No. 68 and Thimmapura Village Boundary; **West by :** Road; **North by :** Thimmapura Village Boundary; and **South by :** Properties bearing Survey Nos. 69, 72, 74 & 73.	Mr. V. Ramesh, son of Late Venkateshappa and others
2.	68	02	32	**East by :** Thimmapura Village Boundary; **West by :** Property bearing Survey No. 67; **North by :** Thimmapura Village Boundary; and **South by :** Property bearing Survey No. 67.	Mr. Venkataramanappa, son of Mr. Thimmaiah
3.	72	00	07	**East by :** Property bearing Survey No. 74; **West by :** Property bearing Survey No. 69; **North by :** Property bearing Survey No. 67; and **South by :** Property bearing Survey No. 70.	Mr. Narayanaswamy, son of Mr. Thimmarayappa
4.	74	00	35	**East by :** Properties bearing Survey Nos. 73 & 59; **West by :** Properties bearing Survey Nos. 72 & 70; **North by :** Property bearing Survey No. 67; and **South by :** Property bearing Survey No. 75.	
5.	73	00	25	**East by :** Thimmapura Village Boundary; **West by :** Property bearing Survey No. 74; **North by :** Property bearing Survey No. 67 and Thimmapura Village Boundary; and **South by :** Property bearing Survey No. 59.	Mrs. Rathnamma W/o Mr.Muniraju

THIMMAPURA VILLAGE

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundaries	Name of the Owner/s
6.	38	05	00	**East by :** Properties bearing Survey Nos. 39 & 10; **West by :** Properties bearing Survey Nos. 37 & 36; **North by :** Property bearing Survey No. 10; and **South by :** Doddadenahalli Village Boundary.	Mr. T. Venkataramanappa, son of Mr. Thimmaiah
7.	39/1	04	00	**East by :** Property bearing Survey No. 10; **West by :** Property bearing Survey No. 38; **North by :** Property bearing Survey No. 10; and **South by :** Property bearing Survey No. 39/2.	Mr. V. Ramesh, son of Late T. Venkateshappa and others
8	39/2	01	00	**East by :** Property bearing Survey No. 10; **West by :** Property bearing Survey No. 38; **North by :** Property bearing Survey No. 39/1; and **South by :** Doddadenahalli Village.	Mr. G.K. Anjinappa, son of Mr. H. Krishnappa

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates,
Advocates & Solicitors, 18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1,
Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560025, Karnataka, India.
Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503676, Email – brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com

Date : 22-01-2026
Place : Bangalore

VOTER ROLL REVISION: Top court says exercise must conform to the principles of natural justice

SIR process must be just & fair: SC to EC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that the conduct of electoral roll revisions must conform to the principles of natural justice and be just and fair.

Hearing a batch of matters related to the validity of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in various states, including Bihar, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said, "No power or jurisdiction can be untrammelled, no matter how high one is. The manner of conduct of the revision of electoral rolls must conform to the principles of natural justice. It should be just and fair."

Arguing for the EC, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi said that the 2025 SIR is sustainable under Article 324 read with Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

"Clause (3) of Section 21 (Preparation and revision of electoral rolls), allows the EC to hold a special revision at any time, for any constituency or part of a constituency, in such manner as it may deem fit," Dwivedi said.

He contended that the Representation of the People Act, 1950, allows the EC to go beyond the limits of its own rules to revise electoral rolls.

The court, however, said that the manner of conducting such revisions must be just and fair.

In an affidavit, the EC stated that several logical discrepancies in the electoral roll of West Bengal defied science — for instance, two electors were recorded as having more than 200 children, seven with over 100 children, 10 with over 50 children, and another 10 with more than 40.

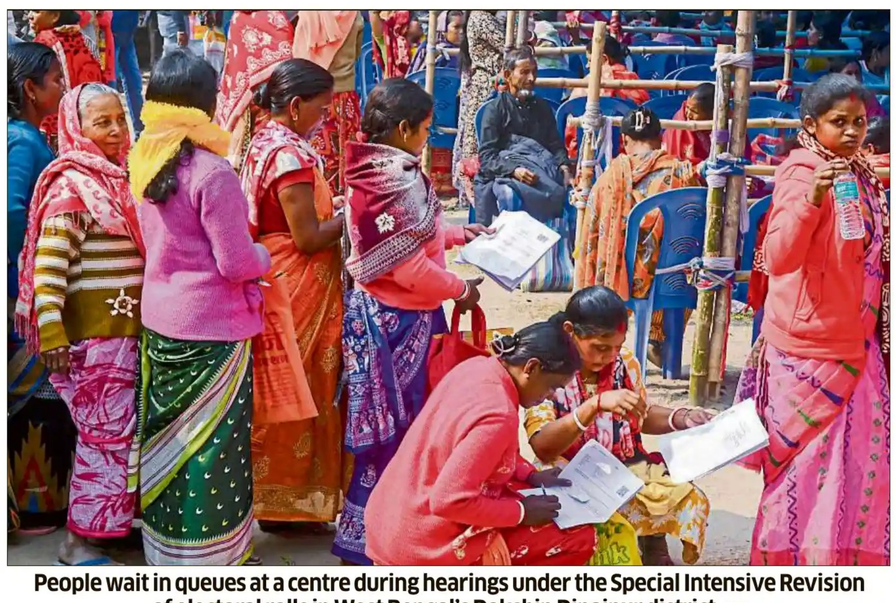
During the hearing, the court referred to sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the 1950 Act and asked the counsel, "Why should we not expect you (EC) to have a transparent procedure?" Dwivedi, however, maintained that the EC can go beyond the limits of its own rules to revise electoral rolls, "as long as the reasons and procedure are fair and just".

JUSTICE SURYA KANT
Chief Justice of India

"The revision of electoral rolls can have serious civil consequences for individuals whose names are not included in the voters' list. If something affects the civil rights of people, why should not the process followed be in accordance with sub-section (2)?

'BE TRANSPARENT'

- Apex court says no power or jurisdiction can be untrammelled, no matter how high one is
- EC says Representation of the People Act allows it to go beyond the limits of its own rules to revise rolls
- Court says revisions must follow transparent, fair procedures despite EC's wide powers
- The CJI asks if Section 21(2) enables the EC to go beyond the rules, can the EC then exempt itself from its own notified procedures when it undertakes an SIR under Section 21(3)



People wait in queues at a centre during hearings under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal's Dakshin Dinajpur district. PTI

Bengal SIR deadline likely be extended

▸ **KOLKATA, PTI:** The EC is considering extending the deadline for the SIR exercise in West Bengal, with the publication of the final voters' list likely to be deferred beyond the scheduled date of February 14, an official of the poll panel said on Wednesday.

Compliance with multiple directions issued by the Supreme Court may make it difficult to adhere to the existing timeline, he said, adding that no final decision has been taken so far. "Implementing all the SC's instructions within the existing timeline is challenging. Additional time may be required," he added.

Trinamool MLA threatens EC official

▸ **KOLKATA, PTI:** A Trinamool Congress MLA has courted controversy after allegedly threatening to break the backbone of a top Election Commission official if any eligible voter is removed from the electoral rolls as a result of the ongoing SIR exercise.

In a purported video that has gone viral, Farakka legislator Manirul Islam also asserted that the poll panel should not test the patience of the TMC, stating that if the EC wants to play with fire, so can the TMC. The remarks came days after a violent protest during the SIR hearing in Farakka, as a group of peole, allegedly in the presence of Islam, rampaged the BDO office.

FIR registered against EC over elderly man's death

▸ **KOLKATA, PTI:** An FIR was filed against the EC in Purulia in connection with the death of an 82-year-old man who allegedly ended his life due to "anxiety over the ongoing SIR", a senior officer said on Wednesday.

Based on a complaint by his son, the case was registered 23 days after the incident, he said. "The case includes charges of abetment of suicide and criminal conspiracy against officials of the EC. No official was named in the FIR."

No appeals filed after 'purification' of Bihar poll rolls: CEC Gyanesh

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday showcased the SIR and subsequent election in Bihar to highlight India's robust electoral system before international poll management bodies, saying no appeal was filed after the "purification of the electoral rolls" and no repolls were required after the voting.

Inaugurating the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management 2026, he said, the Booth Level Officer (BLO), the ground-level functionary who helps in preparing electoral rolls, is the foundational pillar of electoral democracy in the country.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar

His comments on the Bihar SIR came amid the Opposition questioning the exercise, which has now been extended to 12 other states and Union Territories, while alleging that it is an exclusionary exercise aimed at deleting names of voters from existing rolls.

"Bihar went for elections a few months back. The first step was the purification of the electoral rolls, including eligible electors. That stage got completed, and under electoral laws there is a provision for the electoral of any Assembly segment to file appeal, so that no wrong name gets included, and no right name gets excluded, and you will be amazed with the efficiency of the BLOs, the Electoral Registration Officers and the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar that out of 75 million electors, the number of appeals was zero," he said.

"Another feat which was achieved in the Bihar elections... there were nearly a lakh polling stations... how many repolls were required — zero. That was the level of accuracy of efficiency, which was attained by our returning officers, sectoral magistrates, and presiding officers in each and every booth," he said.

Emphasising that the pure electoral roll is essential to strengthen democracy, he said a great level of efficiency was achieved by the local poll machinery from the purification of rolls to the conduct of elections.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) Secretary General Kevin Casas-Zamora said the context in which elections take place has changed dramatically in recent years, with political polarisation, illicit funding flow, aggression both online and offline and digital disinformation supported by obscure algorithms and bots disrupting polls globally.

"Perhaps most concerning is that outright election denial is spread around the world, with politicians from the US to Peru and from Georgia to Bangladesh using spurious arguments to question credible election results. Trust is the key feature of any effective election. Yet, trust in elections is being eroded," he said.

President Donald Trump & PM Narendra Modi. AFP FILE

Trump: Will have a good deal with India

DAVOS, PTI: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he has great respect for his "friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi and they are going to have a good trade deal, according to a media report.

"I have great respect for your Prime Minister. He's a fantastic man and a friend of mine. We are going to have a good deal," Trump told *Moneycontrol* on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

The report said the brief statement was made exclusively to it in a reply to a question on the India-US trade agreement.

Trump announced on August 6 a 25% tariff — on top of the 25% levied earlier — on India's exports to the US to dissuade the South Asian nation from buying Russian oil.

India had described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" while maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest.

Trump also repeated his claim that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan, as he did with so many other wars.

Earlier, Trump has claimed credit for stopping the India-Pakistan conflict more than 80 times since May 10 last year, when he announced on social media that the two neighbours had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after talks mediated by Washington.

India has consistently denied any third-party intervention.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares in New Delhi. REUTERS

Sambhal violence: Judge who ordered FIR transferred

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The judge who had, a few days ago, ordered the registration of an FIR against controversial police officer Anuj Chaudhary and over a dozen other personnel in connection with the Sambhal violence during a court-mandated mosque survey in which five people were killed has been transferred.

Sambhal Chief Judicial Magistrate Vibhanshu Sudheer was among 14 judicial officers transferred by the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday. Sudheer has been posted to Sultanpur as Civil Judge (Senior Division).

Although the order directing the registration of an FIR was issued on January 9, it has not yet been acted upon. Senior police officials termed the order "illegal" and said it would be challenged in a higher court.

The district court's directive followed a petition filed by a Sambhal resident, Yameen, who alleged that his son, Alam, was shot three times by police on November 24, 2024, when violence broke out in the town. Yameen named Chaudhary and several other police officers in his petition. Alam was also among those accused in the violence.

Chaudhary, who was then the Circle Officer (CO) in Sambhal, has since been promoted and is now serving as an Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Firozabad.

Alam's sister alleged that police had threatened the family and that her father and brother had moved to an undisclosed location.

India yet to take a call on joining Trump Gaza board

NEW DELHI, PTI

India is yet to take a call on US President Donald Trump's invitation to be part of the "Board of Peace" that will work towards bringing lasting peace to Gaza and possibly resolve global conflicts, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among various global leaders that the US President has invited to join the Board that was unveiled under the second phase of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Trump is set to host a ceremony on the margins of the annual World Economic Forum in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos on Thursday to announce the broad contours of the "Board of Peace" and its charter.

It is learnt that India is considering various aspects, as the initiative involves sensitive issues, people familiar with the matter said.

The countries which have accepted Trump's invitation are Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Egypt, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Pakistan, the UAE, and Vietnam.

A number of countries, including China, Germany, Italy, Paraguay, Russia, Slovenia, Turkiye and Ukraine, have remained noncommittal on the invitation.

Trump's "Board of Peace" is being projected by Washington as a new international body to usher in peace and stability in Gaza and beyond, triggering speculations that it could pose a challenge to the United Nations.

The *Financial Times*, quoting from the "charter" of the Board, said this week that it is "an international organisation that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict". The top level of the Board will consist "exclusively" of heads of state under Trump's leadership, the newspaper quoted a White House official as saying.

Jolt to Thackeray unity pitch: MNS backs Shinde Sena in Kalyan-Dombivli

It remains to be seen whether this has any bearing on BMC

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Amid the Thackeray cousins — Uddhav and Raj — reuniting after two decades, asserting that they "have come together to stay together", Maharashtra's evolving political realignments threw up a fresh surprise on Wednesday: The MNS backing the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's mayoral bid in the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC).

This was one of the most significant post-civic-poll churns in the state, where ideological lines have blurred, and local-level alliances have begun to reshape political equations.

It remains to be seen whether this suburban arithmetic has any bearing on the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde with MNS president Raj Thackeray. PTI FILE

The KDMC, comprising 31 wards, has 122 corporators. In the elections, the Shiv Sena emerged as the single largest party with 53 seats, followed closely by the BJP with 50. The Shiv Sena (UBT) won 11 seats, the MNS five, the Congress two, and the NCP (SP) one.

With the magic figure at 62, the Shiv Sena is nine short of a majority, while the BJP is 12 seats away. The MNS's decision has stunned not only the BJP but also Uddhav Thackeray.

Neither Raj nor Shinde has publicly commented on the development so far. While the Maha Yuti commands an overall majority, the contest for the mayor's post in one of Mumbai's most important Central Line suburbs has intensified.

The Shiv Sena is also reaching out to Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP (SP) corporators to bolster its bargaining power. Two Shiv Sena (UBT) corporators are currently said to be unreachable.

MNS leader Raju Patil was in touch with Shiv Sena leaders Shrikant Shinde and Naresh Mhaske.

The political manoeuvres unfolded while CM Devendra Fadnavis was in Davos attending a World Economic Forum summit.

"We have backed the Shiv Sena solely for development. We have only five corporators in a House of 122, and from outside we could have achieved very little. So we decided to go along with the Shiv Sena and work for development," said Patil.

Welcoming the move, Shrikant said, "It is a good decision of the MNS corporators to join development efforts."

Asked whether corporators from other parties, including the BJP, should also support the Sena, he replied, "Yes, they should also support development."

The development comes as a setback for the BJP, whose state president, Ravindra Chavan, is an MLA from Dombivli. However, Mhaske insisted that the Maha Yuti remains intact.

RAJU PATIL
MNS leader

"MNS has decided to support the Maha Yuti to maintain stability... The decision was not taken for any personal interest. It was taken after Raj Thackeray gave permission

SANJAY RAUT
Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

"Raj Thackeray is distraught over this development. He said some people at the local level have taken this decision and it is not the decision of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena party.

CBI probe into Naini tenders after T'gana's nod: Centre

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Wednesday that the Central government would examine the possibility of a CBI inquiry into the Naini coal block tenders episode if the Telangana government consented to it.

"Questions like 'why no CBI enquiry was ordered' ignore the fact that the state's consent is required for such investigations," he told reporters after BRS leader T Harish Rao demanded a probe by the Central agency into the now-cancelled tender for a coal-mining contract from the state-run Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in Odisha's Naini block.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced the cancellation of the tender amid allegations of irregularities by two of his Cabinet colleagues in their efforts to obtain the contract.

SAFFRON REJIG

Young faces likely to be inducted in Nitin Nabin's new BJP team

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As he takes over the reins of the BJP as its youngest chief, Nitin Nabin's tenure marks a generational shift within the party. In the coming days, a revamp of the national team is expected, along with a meeting of the National Council to ratify the election.

On Wednesday, a day after he was appointed the party's national president, Nabin met its office-bearers, heads of its various wings, and state presidents, including former state presidents. Key discussions focused on election strategy in five poll-bound states, as well as plans to amplify the VB-G RAM G Bill.

Nitin Nabin

Just hours after taking charge, Nabin made a series of organisational appointments, naming party general secretary Vinod Tawde the in-charge for the Kerala assembly polls, and Ram Madhav the in-charge of the Greater Bengaluru civic elections. Shobha Karandlaje will assist Tawde in Kerala, while Madhav will be supported by co-incharges Satish Poonia and Sanjay Upadhyay.

Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar was named in-charge of the Telangana civic polls, with Ashok Parnani and Rekha Sharma as his co-incharges.

Nabin's appointment, party leaders say, is part of a move to reach out to younger generations of voters, as the BJP seeks to position itself as a viable choice for them. "The leadership's choice of Nabin is meant to send a message that any dedicated organisational worker can rise through the ranks," a senior party leader said.

With every president, a new team of office-bearers is constituted. Nabin's team is expected to feature several younger faces, the leader added. Sources said Nabin is keen on striking a fine balance.

Following Nabin's elevation, there is sustained speculation that a reshuffle in the Narendra Modi Cabinet may be on the cards. Some new faces are expected, while some old names may either see changes in their roles or be dropped altogether.

Vijay's TVK likely to get common symbol

CHENNAI, DHNS: The TVK led by actor Vijay is likely to be allotted a common symbol for the April-May assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The party, which was registered in February 2024 by the Election Commission of India (ECI), will make its electoral debut in the Assembly polls.

Sources told *DH* that the TVK, which is a registered unrecognised party, has applied for a common symbol with the ECI, as it plans to field candidates in all 234 constituencies in Tamil Nadu and 30 constituencies in Puducherry.

Meanwhile, Vijay will resume his political activities after a month of silence on January 25, when he is likely to attend a meeting of senior leaders and district secretaries at a luxurious resort in Mamallapuram near here.

Dhinakaran returns to NDA fold

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Union Minister Piyush Goyal raises hands with Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam president T T V Dhinakaran in Chennai on Wednesday. PTI

After weeks of negotiations, the AMMK, led by T T V Dhinakaran, formally rejoined the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Wednesday in a significant boost to the AIADMK-led combine: The move will unite the Mukulathor votes that were split between the parties in the 2021 Assembly polls.

Dhinakaran's bete noire, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, "warmly" welcomed him into the alliance with a statement on his social media pages, though his party's leaders were absent when Union minister Piyush Goyal ushered the AMMK back into the NDA at a five-star hotel here.

Palaniswami and Dhinakaran said defeating the DMK in the 2026 Assembly elections was the goal that reunited them after eight years.

Dhinakaran was expelled from the AIADMK in September 2017 after Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam took over the party's reins. Months later, he launched the AMMK, which never won a seat on its own in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. He once vowed to end EPS' political career, but has now endorsed the AIADMK general secretary as the NDA's chief-ministerial candidate.

"You know who our CM candidate is. We (the AMMK and the AIADMK) have issues between us, but the state's welfare is important," Dhinakaran said.

Sources told *DH* that the party was likely to be allotted between six and 10 seats, and would contest on the AMMK's Pressure Cooker symbol.

Goyal is also likely to hold discussions with late actor Vijayakanth's DMDK and OPS as part of the efforts to give a final shape to the NDA before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's on January 23 rally.

No police custody can be granted if accused is on bail: Supreme Court

Says such a course would effectively defeat and nullify the order granting bail

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said police custody of an accused cannot be granted if he or she has been released on bail.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the scheme of criminal procedure does not countenance the grant of police remand to an accused who continues to enjoy the protection of bail, as such a course would effectively defeat and nullify the order granting bail.

"Where the investigating agency seeks police remand of an accused who has already been enlarged on bail, the proper and legally permissible course is to first seek cancellation of bail and only thereafter apply for police custody," it said in a recent judgment.

The court allowed an appeal filed by Pogadadabnda Revathi and another against the Telangana High Court's October 2025 order.

The HC had dismissed the appellants' petition against a sessions court's order, which allowed the investigating officer to take the accused on police remand, even though they were granted bail by a magistrate court.

Considering their challenge, the bench said, when the accused appellants had already been enlarged on bail, granting police custody would necessarily require the accused-appellants to be taken back into custody and curtail their liberty, which would, in effect, be tantamount to cancellation of bail in an indirect manner, without adherence to the settled legal parameters governing cancellation of bail.

The court noted the order granting police custody was passed by the revisional court after more than six months from the date on which police custody was declined by the magistrate and the accused appellants were released on bail.

"Thus, the revisional court as well as the HC clearly seems to have fallen into error while directing the grant of police custody of the accused-appellants for investigation in connection with the FIR," it said.

The court emphasised the discretion of whether or not to grant police custody remand is vested with the magistrate, and once the magistrate exercises such discretion, accepting or declining the prayer for police custody by assigning reasons, such an order should ordinarily not be interfered with by the revisional forum unless gross perversity is shown.

Govt opens consultation on draft national electricity policy

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Power on Wednesday sought public consultation on the draft National Electricity Policy 2026, which aims to address high losses and debt of discoms, non-cost-reflective tariffs, and high cross-subsidisation.

A non-cost-reflective tariff is a pricing structure in which the rate charged to a particular consumer category is below the utility's average cost of generating, transmitting, and distributing power to that category.

While cross-subsidisation is a pricing mechanism in which certain consumer groups (industrial, commercial, and higher-income domestic users) are charged above the cost of supply to offset and subsidise the lower tariffs provided to other groups, such as agricultural consumers and low-income households.

The draft seeks to foster competition, ensure grid resilience to integrate increased shares of variable renewable energy, and provide consumer-centric services with demand-side interventions, the ministry said in a statement.

The inputs are to be submitted within 30 days.

The policy states that the tariff should progressively recover fixed costs through demand charges to avoid cross-subsidisation between the tariff components as well as among various categories of consumers. It targets per capita electricity consumption of 2,000 kWh by 2030 and over 4,000 kWh by 2047.

Activists decry mass killings of stray dogs in rural Telangana

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A wave of alleged mass killings of stray dogs in rural Telangana has alarmed animal welfare activists, prompting FIRs against village sarpanches, panchayat secretaries, and hired hands.

Activists accused local leaders of orchestrating the poisonings, which they said violated the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA), 1960. The police have launched detailed investigations, suspecting that over 600 dogs were killed via injections in recent days.

In the Rangareddy district's Yacharam village, activists reported 100 deaths, with villagers implicating the sarpanch. An FIR at the Yacharam Police Station even demanded post-mortem examinations.

In the Jagtial district's Dharmapuri Municipality, civic workers allegedly poisoned 50 dogs, leading to an FIR at the Dharmapuri Police Station.

Activists decried the killings, calling them coordinated cruelty. "These intentional acts demand accountability," animal welfare activist A Goutham said. The police confirmed that a probe was underway, but no arrest had been made yet.

In the Kamareddy district's Palwancha Mandal, the Stray Animal Foundation of India (SAFI) 's Animal Cruelty Prevention Manager Adulapuram Goutham reported around 200 stray dogs killed over two to three days, ending January 12, in the Bhavanipet, Palwancha, Faridpet, Wadi, and Bandarameshwarapally villages.

Goutham, from the Malkapur village in Karimnagar, alleged that the five villages' sarpanches directed the action and another person executed it using poisonous injections.

On January 12, Goutham and his friend Govardhan discovered dog carcasses dumped behind Yellamma Temple in Bhavanipet and verified similar incidents elsewhere. An FIR was registered at the Machareddy Police Station under Section 11(1)(a)(l) of the PCA Act.

In an incident in the Hanumakonda district's Shayampet and Arepally villages, 300 dogs were killed over four days leading up to January 9.

Goutham's petition named the Shayampet sarpanch, deputy sarpanch, two panchayat secretaries, and two hired men.

Chinmaya Mission to mark Amrit Mahotsav with mass Bhagavad Gita chanting

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Spiritual organisation Chinmaya Mission will celebrate its Amrit Mahotsav—75 years of spiritual, educational, and social-service activities—with a two-day event on January 24-25 at Hyderabad's NTR Stadium, it has said in a statement.

Devotees, students, youth, and the public are expected to honour its founder, Swami Chinmayananda, on the occasion.

Swami Swaroopananda, global head and direct disciple in the lineage, would participate in the two-day event, it said, adding that Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka would join the January 25 programme.

January 24 will reportedly feature the launch of thematic stalls on Mission activities and a VR journey into Chinmayananda's life.

On January 25, highlights are expected to include mass chanting of the Bhagavad Gita's 15th chapter by schoolchildren, musical renditions, youth participation, and Gita chanting by visually-impaired participants.

"The event will also unveil 'Gita Panchamrit'—envisioned by Swami Tejomayananda, capturing the Bhagavad Gita's essence in five essential verses we must learn, spread, and live by," Chinmaya Mission Greater Hyderabad Swami in-charge Sarveshananda told reporters on Wednesday.

MISCELLANY

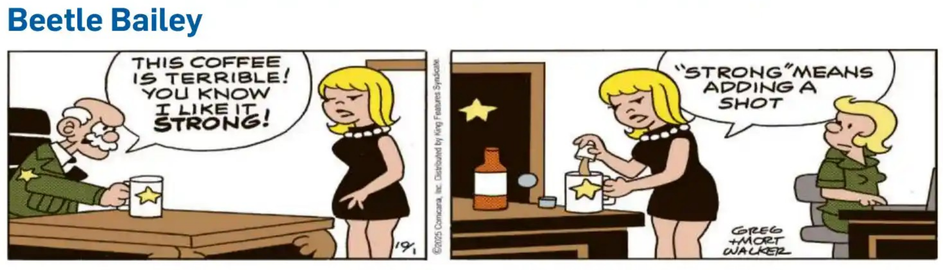
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WE'D LIKE YOU TO CATER FOR OUR SWEET-TOOTH PASTRY LOVERS CLUB!
PERFECT! WE HAVE AN AMAZING PASTRY CHEF!
SHE CAN MAKE SALTED CARAMEL TARTS, MACAROONS, ECLAIRS, ETC....NOW, WHAT ENTREE WOULD YOU LIKE?
FORGET THE ENTREE!
BRING ON THE PASTRIES
IT'S YOUR PARTY!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

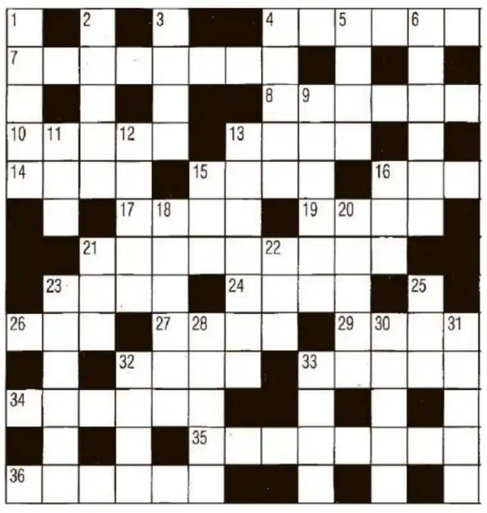


Peanuts

I CAN'T GET THAT LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL OUT OF MY MIND..
WHY DON'T YOU CALL HER UP, CHARLIE BROWN?
I'M AFRAID SHE'D HANG UP IN MY FACE!
THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF CALLING HER ON THE PHONE
ONE EAR ISN'T A WHOLE FACE!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12337



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Pop has the makings of a poet (6)
7 As used for a voyage across the Atlantic? (8)
8 The science of men with vision? (6)
10 Early crash in a race (5)
13 Look displeased when put out about nothing (4)
14 Green apes, possibly? (4)
15 The way everybody is obstructive! (4)
16 Flat land in the east of England (3)
17 Where Romeo appeared in play? (4)
19 Scout around England's capital for a river (4)
21 Seem a master as you show foresight (4,5)
23 Sherry with a portion of fish, also duck (4)
24 Might the chief be thus eyed? (4)
26 A leading spinner (3)
27 Enlightened the silly dolt! (4)
29 A sound team will swarm all over the place (4)
32 Just about behind me (4)
33 Do the spadework? (5)
34 It can look toweringly Oriental (6)
35 Rows of houses to accommodate the fans (8)
36 Could it sting you in bed? (6)

DOWN
1 Unwelcome thing to do, if not exactly usury (5)
2 Clubhouse! (5)
3 In a notably positive style? (4)
4 Supporter lacking backing (5)
5 Statesmanlike Brad? (4)
6 A sticky game? (6)
9 Beats up less, possibly (6)
11 A tasteful slipper (3)
12 Astonishing part of Birmingham (5)
13 Apt to be passed over at the bank? (7)
15 For cooking, it's good to a point (3)
16 G-man never hungry? (3)
18 On the spot, unable to get away! (6)
20 Beat to a pulp? (5)
21 Border of Gallipoli? (3)
22 Is not expected to drop a brick (3)
23 Find food for a lifetime (6)
25 He'll be good enough to step on the gas (3)
28 Speak of love with a phoney tear (5)
30 Choose maybe to take '11' to court (5)
31 River of service to me (5)
32 Maybe Tom's in the majority (4)
33 Mend with a mushroom! (4)

ACROSS
4 Excuse, forgive (6)
7 Vegetable (8)
8 Distinguished, famous (2,4)
10 Shocks (5)
13 Snooker rods (4)
14 Card game (4)
15 Gaelic (4)
16 Jabber (3)
17 Roman emperor (4)
19 Make beer (4)
21 Telephone selling (9)
23 Greek letter (4)
24 Pace (4)
26 Lair (3)
27 Cedar, say (4)
29 Paradise (4)
32 Insects (4)
33 Shallow round dish (5)
34 Non-liquid food (6)
35 Unsafe (8)
36 Sinew (6)

DOWN
1 Chasm (5)
2 Influential person (5)
3 Performs (4)
4 Godly (5)
5 Manages (4)
6 To ban (6)
9 Frail (6)
11 Pull with a rope (3)
12 Group of nine (5)
13 Traverses (7)
15 Before (3)
16 Opposite of no (3)
18 Very happy (6)
20 Ward off (5)
21 Number (3)
22 Had food (3)
23 Develop into (6)
25 Wager (3)
28 Tree sap (5)
30 Fact (5)
31 At no time (5)
32 Feathered friend (4)
33 Bard (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12336

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Bust up 7, Lunch-eon 8, Area 10, Mar-gay 11, Arcade 14, O'er 16, L-Una-R 17, Se-n-t 19, Lager 21, M-one-t. 22, Eaten 23, Bart 26, Heart 28, Law 29, Al-Fred 30, Resown 31, A-nil 32, The point 33, System.
DOWN: 1, Blimps 2, T-arge-t 3, P-lay 4, Scarlet 5, B-e.g.-an 6, Under 8, Aron 9, Ea.-r 12, Cur 13, Dakar 15, Caned 18, Ethel 19, Lot 20, G-EN 21, Mate-lot 22, Er-r 23, Basics 24, AW-O-L 25, Tandem 26, Hast-y 27, Af-t-er 28, Len 30, Rats.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Recall 7, Eventual 8, Raps 10, Slates 11, Recent 14, Rep 16, Rodeo 17, Shed 19, Lurid 21, Licit 22, Rapid 23, Reef 26, Tonic 28, Key 29, Icebox 30, Pigeon 31, Amid 32, Straight 33, Singer.
DOWN: 1, Rouses 2, Abated 3, Less 4, Inherit 5, Cured 6, Pluto 8, Rare 9, Pep 12, Cod 13, Nerve 15, Lucid 18, Havoc 19, Lip 20, Rid 21, Laconic 22, Rib 23, Region 24, Eyed 25, Finger 26, Tipsy 27, Nears 28, Kim 30, Pats.

◆SU-DO-KU-6810◆

6	3				8		4	7
								3
		9	3					6
	2			9				4
3			1		4			2
8				3			1	
9					7	4		
1								
2	6		9				5	8

hard

5	1	3	7	2	4	9	6	8
7	6	8	5	9	3	4	1	2
2	4	9	1	8	6	7	3	5
3	7	6	2	5	1	8	9	4
8	9	2	4	3	7	1	5	6
1	5	4	9	6	8	3	2	7
6	8	1	3	7	2	5	4	9
4	2	5	8	1	9	6	7	3
9	3	7	6	4	5	2	8	1

SOLUTION TO 6809

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

								RACK 1
Y4	D2	U1	N1	R1	A1	E1		
								RACK 2
L1	A1	A1	C3	M3	E1	R1		3rd Letter Triple
								RACK 3
I1	K5	N1	L1	O1	S1	I1		Double Word Score
								RACK 4
E1	S1	E1	E1	H4	E1	C3		Triple Word Score

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	C3	R1	A1	W4	L1	S1	RACK 1	= 65
T1	A1	R1	S1	E1	A1	L1	RACK 2	= 57
M3	E1	D2	L1	E1	Y4		RACK 3	= 12
W4	E1	E1	K5	D2	A1	Y4	RACK 4	= 104
							JUDD'S TOTAL	238

PAR SCORE 155-165

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KUSNK

DRETN

GIRIFD

CENSOH

I'll slide down.
Climb down! They are our ladders.
Thanks!
You're so brave!
7/14
THE SAVANNA'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HAD GIRAFFES WILLING TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DWELL SOUPY FILLET JUNKET
Answer: The golfer hitting the ball out of bounds so many times in a row was becoming — "TEE-DIOUS"

HITORI-3264

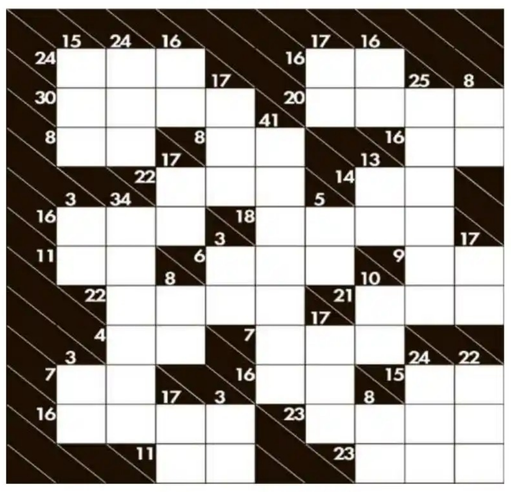
6	2	6	4	3	2	8	5
4	4	7	4	1	5	6	3
7	4	6	6	8	7	5	4
1	3	4	2	4	3	7	6
8	5	3	7	2	7	2	4
4	7	4	8	6	4	4	2
3	8	2	4	5	4	4	7
3	3	5	5	7	1	2	4

SOLUTION TO 3263

■	7	■	5	■	8	6	1
8	5	4	6	2	1	■	3
3	8	1	■	4	■	2	7
1	■	5	8	■	7	■	4
■	2	■	4	1	5	8	■
7	4	2	1	3	■	5	8
6	■	7	■	5	4	3	■
■	1	8	3	■	2	7	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3264



SOLUTION TO 3263

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3804

■	1			4				■
	■		1	8			■	
		■		2		■		
	4		5		■		2	
			9	6				
7			8		■	4	5	3
		4	6	3		■	7	5
9	■					2	■	
■								■

SOLUTION TO 3803

7	6	2	3	5	1	9	8	4
1	8	4	9	7	6	3	5	2
3	9	5	4	2	8	1	7	6
9	5	6	2	4	7	8	1	3
2	3	1	8	9	5	6	4	7
4	7	8	6	1	3	5	2	9
6	1	3	7	8	2	4	9	5
5	2	9	1	3	4	7	6	8
8	4	7	5	6	9	2	3	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

'Illegal mining an absolute crime': SC for expert panel on Aravallis

Top court flags irreversible losses, extends stay on definition of mountain range

CRACKING DOWN

- Court cites 'devastating consequences' of mining, orders holistic review
- Demands strict compliance on Aravalli safeguards
- SC to monitor expert panel on Aravallis row

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that illegal mining is an absolute crime as it causes irreversible losses and devastating consequences, while emphasising that a committee of domain experts will be constituted to undertake a holistic examination of mining and related issues in the Aravallis.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said that the panel will function directly under the court's monitoring and supervision. The court also extended its stay on the November 20, 2025, judgment concerning the definition for demarcating the territorial extent of the Aravalli hills and range.

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, appearing for one of the parties, contended that illegal mining is being carried out at scattered locations, trees have been cut, and it must be stopped.

The bench said that the court's directions should be meticulously complied with, noting that some people remain incorrigibly involved in illegal mining. It stressed that the government deploy its machinery to address this issue.

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, representing the Rajasthan government, assured the court that all possible measures would be taken to ensure that there is no illegal mining.

The bench advised advocates to refrain from filing fresh writ petitions in the matter, saying that the court is aware of the reasons behind such filings and noting that it has already taken suo motu cognisance.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal submitted that he has filed an intervention, delving into the history of the Aravallis and the scientific aspects, and that he wants to assist the court.

Referring to its December 29, 2025, order, the SC said, "We need to have a team exclusively of experts from different walks of life, including the forest sector. We need domain experts sitting together under one umbrella. We would like all of you to suggest names, so that an independent expert committee can be constituted, which will be directly under the monitoring and supervision of this court and undertake the exercise step by step."

'Can't be defined'

Sibal submitted that the Aravallis cannot be defined. "Sub-tectonic strata extend from Gujarat all the way to Uttar Pradesh. If you start defining the Aravallis, you will run into problems," he said.

The court directed the Additional Solicitor General and the amicus curiae to suggest, within four weeks, the names of eminent environmentalists, scientists and forest experts with specialised expertise in ensuring regulated mining.

The bench said that the interim direction issued on December 29 will remain in force until further orders.

Following a row over the definition of the Aravalli hills approved by it, the court had taken suo motu cognisance of the issue titled 'In Re: Definition of Aravalli Hills and Ranges and Ancillary Issues'.

Army personnel during a flag march, in Kokrajhar, Assam, on Wednesday. PTI

Kokrajhar unrest: Over 2k Bodos, Adivasis remain in shelter camps

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The situation in trouble-torn Kokrajhar in western Assam remained calm on Wednesday with no fresh violence reported, even as more than 2,000 people belonging to Bodo and Adivasi communities remained sheltered in camps.

Sources said more than 600 families from at least 15 villages fled their homes, fearing further conflict and were provided shelter in five camps. "Bodo villagers have been provided shelter in four camps while Adivasis are in another camp," said the source.

Inspector General of Police (law and order) Akhilesh Singh, who rushed to Kokrajhar, told *DH* that army and other security forces remained deployed, but no fresh incident of violence was reported on Wednesday. "The situation is under control now," he said.

Army carried out a flag march amid efforts by the administration to restore peace and bridge the trust between the two communities to remove the sense of fear prevailing among people.

Meanwhile, a meeting for the restoration of peace was held at the secretariat of the Bodoland Territorial Council, in which it was decided to send the affected people back to their villages on Thursday.

Mobile internet, however, remained suspended in Kokrajhar and neighbouring Chirang district.

Kokrajhar witnessed violent protests after a Bodo person, who allegedly hit a Santhal Adivasi man with his car, was killed by a mob on Monday night. Two others were seriously injured by the Adivasi villagers at Karigaon area.

The Adivasi man, identified as Sunil Murmu, who was injured in the car accident, succumbed to injuries in a hospital later. The Bodoland Territorial Region has a history of Bodo-Adivasi conflict.

Kerala vlogger held over man's suicide

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Woman vlogger Shimjitha Musthafa was arrested by the police on Wednesday in connection with the death of a man in Kerala, allegedly after she posted a video accusing him of sexual misconduct on a bus.

Musthafa, 35, was taken into custody from a relative's house in Vadakara, Kozhikode, where she had been hiding. The police had earlier issued a lookout circular after she absconded.

Deepak U, a resident of Govindapuram in Kozhikode, was found hanging in his house on Sunday. On January 16, Musthafa had posted a video of Deepak travelling on the same bus as her, accusing him of inappropriately touching her with sexual intent. The video went viral.

Deepak's parents said he was deeply distressed by the incident as he was innocent, and that this led him to take his own life.

The incident sparked strong protests against Musthafa.

The police registered a case against her for abetment of suicide under Section 108 of the BNS.

Musthafa was produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody. Youth Congress activists also staged a demonstration against her. She is a former local body member in Malappuram.

The police were trying to extract the full video from Musthafa's mobile phone. The bus driver and conductor reportedly told investigators that they had not noticed any incident on the bus. Statements were also being collected from other passengers.

Kashmir mosque data exercise sparks row

Administration defends info collection as routine event

FAITH FILES

- Religious bodies & political leaders question intent and scope of police involvement
- Seek clarity on how the information will be used, express surveillance fears
- Officials say the exercise aimed at updating official records, preventing misuse of religious spaces
- Formal state oversight common in countries, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A police-led exercise to collect information on mosques, seminaries, and religious functionaries across Kashmir has triggered political criticism and concern among sections of the religious leadership, even as the administration has defended the move as a routine regulatory measure.

Officials said the exercise is aimed at updating official records, ensuring transparency and preventing misuse of religious spaces, and is not intended to interfere with religious practices.

According to officials familiar with the process, the data being collected includes basic institutional details, administrative structures and information on religious functionaries. They said similar records exist for educational institutions, NGOs and other public-facing bodies, and that religious institutions are not being singled out.

The exercise has drawn objections from some religious organisations and political leaders, who have questioned the intent and scope of police involvement.

They have sought clarity on how the information will be used and whether it could lead to surveillance of religious activity. The administration has maintained that the process is administrative in nature and conducted within the framework of law.

A comparative look at practices in Muslim-majority countries suggests that formal state oversight of mosques is common globally, often implemented through legal and administrative mechanisms.

In Pakistan, mosques are required to be registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or as trusts or waqfs, involving documentation such as land ownership records and identity proofs of mosque committee members. Oversight is exercised by provincial Auqaf departments or district administrations, and a No Objection Certificate is mandatory for new mosque construction.

Saudi Arabia follows a highly centralised model, with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance overseeing mosque planning, construction and operations. Imams are appointed and paid by the state, and mosques function within a national administrative framework.

Turkiye's Presidency of Religious Affairs, or the Diyanet, manages and funds most of the country's mosques and employs imams as civil servants.

While some mosques are community-built, they must be registered as legally recognised associations or foundations and operate with government approval.

Officials in Kashmir argue that the current exercise is limited to data collection and falls well short of the direct state control seen in several other countries.

The administration has indicated that consultations with stakeholders may follow to address concerns. For now, the data collection drive continues amid political and religious debate.

Editors Guild voices concern over summons to Kashmir scribes

SRINAGAR, PTI: At least two journalists from mainstream English dailies were summoned by the Jammu and Kashmir police over their reports on the profiling of mosques and their management committees. The move led to a massive debate, with the Editors Guild and several political parties expressing outrage.

The Indian Express and the *Hindustan Times* on Wednesday carried stories on their correspondents being summoned by the police's cyber cell last week.

According to the *Indian Express*, Assistant Editor Bashaarat Masood, who has covered the region for two decades, spent 15 hours over four days at the Cyber Police Station in Srinagar and was asked to sign a bond that he would do nothing to disturb peace. He did not do so.

The paper said Masood received the first call on January 14, asking him to be present at the Cyber Police Station the next day.

Hindustan Times said in its report that its correspondent Ashiq Hussain also received an oral summons, but the daily asked for a written summons "with reason" so it could respond.

Reacting sharply, the Editors Guild of India said in a statement that it noted with "grave concern the continued repression of legitimate journalistic activity by the authorities in Kashmir".

It said arbitrary summons and police questioning of journalists, and bids to obtain affidavits under duress, are tantamount to coercion and intimidation of the media in pursuit of its legitimate duties. It also called on police and other authorities to desist from actions restricting free speech.

FIREPOWER

Indian Army soldiers operate a M777 Ultra Light Howitzer artillery gun during 'Exercise Topchi 2026', in Nashik, on Wednesday. For the first time, "Gun Dets" from the Border Security Force, and Indian Navy sailors with drones participated in the annual event. PTI

IAF chief: India must partner with others for new weapons

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the Indian Air Force's (IAF) proposal to buy 114 Rafale fighter aircraft from France under the government's active consideration, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said on Wednesday that India "needs to join hands with other countries" to get new "products, platforms and weapons in the near future".

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh

Such a strategic partnership, he said, was essential to catch up with next-generation technologies, while continuing indigenous design and development.

"This is the right time to get into a strategic partnership to develop next-generation weapons and platforms, something along the lines of the vision we have taken for engines of future aircraft," the Air Chief Marshal said at a seminar.

The IAF chief spoke at a time when the Defence Ministry has been negotiating with the French government to acquire six squadrons of Rafale combat jets from Dassault Aviation in a government-to-government deal.

While some of the aircraft are to be flown to India, others will be manufactured locally in partnership with the Indian industry.

On the increasing military use of unmanned aerial vehicles, Air Marshal Singh said the roles of drones were transitioning from simple, secondary use as surveillance tools to more complex unmanned aerial combat vehicles.

"The relevance of drones is increasing day by day, particularly the swarm drones, UCAV and counter drone systems. Our focus should remain on acquiring such capabilities as early as possible," he said.

Addressing the 22nd Subroto Mukerjee seminar, he said, "What is happening around the world and what has happened in India is that air power has delivered what was required. Air power is very important, and we should focus our attention on this part of the military if we want to be a force to reckon with."

"Whether it is getting people out of conflict zones, like we did in Sudan, or striking terrorist infrastructure and its perpetrators, or attacking multiple bases in Pakistan in a matter of hours to send a signal that enough is enough and bring them to their knees, it was air power that did the trick, and that must be remembered," Air Chief Marshal Singh said.

Sanatana Dharma row: HC quashes FIR against Malviya

MADURAI, PTI: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has quashed an FIR registered against BJP leader Amit Malviya for allegedly distorting the comments made by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on "Sanatana Dharma", wondering why those initiating "hate speech" were allowed to go scot-free while those reacting to it had to face the law.

Amit Malviya

Allowing a criminal original petition filed by Malviya, the BJP's IT Cell chief, seeking to quash the FIR, Justice S Srimathy said continuation of the case would amount to abuse of process of law.

The judge said the comments of Udhayanidhi were tantamount to hate speech and held that questioning it was a reaction.

The case centres on remarks by Stalin in 2023, calling for "eradication" of Sanatana Dharma, equating it with diseases like malaria and dengue, to which Malviya reacted strongly, saying it was like calling for a "genocide" of the 80% of the population that followed Sanatana Dharma.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division,
SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-4/2025-26/72 Date: 21.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) CALL-3

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers **for Hiring of Private Service Provider (PSP) for providing the service of Helicopters/Aircrafts for handling the protocol duties of Hon'ble Governor/CM/ DCM/VVIPs in Karnataka. (PWD/2025-26/SE0988)** EMD: **Rs. 2,00,000/-** (Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-proc, remaining through BG/Insurance Surety Bond). Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Date & Place of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:**28.01.2026-Office of the Chief Engineer, C & B (South), PWD, Bengaluru-560001.** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **21.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: **as per e-procurement guidelines**. Further information can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/5147/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Division,
K.C.D.Circle, Behind Ganapati Temple,
Dasanakoppa Main Road, Dharwad-580 001.
E-mail id: eesliddwd@gmail.com, Ph.No. 0836-2461218
No. KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Shiggaon-Additional/Tender/2025-26/884 Dt: 21-01-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH "KPP Portal" ONLY)

On behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLI Division. Dharwad, Karnataka invites 3 Nos of tenders on Turnkey basis in **Two Cover System** from the **eligible registered Civil Contractor**. The intending bidders can submit their bids as an individual / firm / company for the work of **"Filling up of Additional 26 Tanks under Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Scheme" (Extension of Hotanhalli and Chandapura Tank Filling Scheme) (i) Package-1:** Pumping Machinery and Construction of Sump Cum Pump House and Construction of substation & Construction of tapping point and erection of 11kV SC Line and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender **Rs.349.89 Lakhs). (ii) Package-2:** Construction of Rising main for a length of 7.760 Km of HDPE Pipe for extension of Hothanahalli Tank filling scheme and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender **Rs.413.27 Lakhs). (iii) Package-3**: Construction of Bleeder 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8 Distribution of HDPE and Construction of Gravity Distribution Network of Chandapura Tank Filling Scheme and O & M for 5 years **(Amount put to tender Rs.420.86 Lakhs)** through KPP-Portal of Government of Karnataka. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **29/01/2026, 11.00 a.m.** onwards and completed e-tendering documents can be submitted upto **09/02/2026, 4.00 p.m.** The Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled on **03/02/2026 at 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** in the office of **Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon LI Division, Dharwad**. The technical bid will be opened on **10/02/2026 at 4.30 p.m.** and financial bids of successful tenders will be opened on **13/02/2026 at 11.00 a.m.** or after obtaining approval to the Technical Bid.

Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP-portal only. The undersigned reserves the right to postpone, accept, reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- (Manjunath.B.)
Executive Engineer,
KNNL, SLI DIVISION,
DHARWAD.

DIPR/Dharwad/1131/Adverto/2025-26

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer
Shanthinagra Sub Division, 7th Floor,
P.U. Building, M. G Road, Bangalore-560001.
No. AEE/SN/W-111/PR/432/2025-26 Date: 20.01.2026

QUOTATION

Demolition of Unauthorised Construction of Building At Ward No.111, Josephine Rita Pinto Rep By Its GPA Holder Thiru Margadarshi Construction Pvt. Ltd., Rep By ltd MD Mr. S Narayana, PID No: 76-122-4, Site No.04, 4th Cross, Victoria Layout, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru. Est Amnt **Rs. 5,85,000/- (Five Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand only).**

Sl. No	Items (Description)
1	Demolishing R.C.C. work manually/ by mechanical means including stacking of steel bars and disposal of unserviceable material to the appropriate disposal area. Qty: **42.33,** Unit: **Cum,** Rate: **Rs.1,12,971.44.**
2	Demolishing brick work manually/ by mechanical means including stacking of serviceable material and disposal of unserviceable material to the appropriate disposal area. Qty: **74.07,** Unit: **Cum,** Rate: **Rs.83,839.83.**
3	Hire Charges for Tipper. Qty: **96.00,** Unit: **Hr,** Rate: **Rs.1,35,552.00.**
4	Hire Charges for Front End loader 2.1 m3 bucket capacity. Qty: **72.00,** Unit: **Hr,** Rate: **Rs.93,600.00.**
5	Unskilled (Heavy work). Qty: **96.00,** Unit: **Per Day,** Rate: **Rs.61,766.40.**
6	Loading and Unloading of Stone Boulder/ Stone aggregates/ and/ Kankar/ Moorum. Qty: **42.33,** Unit: **Cum,** Rate: **Rs.7,015.52.**

The Sealed Quotation Should reach office on or before **Date: 30.01.2026 up to 04.00 PM** and the same.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagara Sub Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara,
Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in
No: KERC/DD(Tariff)/2025-26/1485 Date: 19.01.2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had published the **Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Roadmap for Reducing Cross - Subsidy and Cross Subsidy Surcharge) Regulations, 2025** in the Karnataka Gazette on 18.12.2025, inviting comments / views / suggestions / objections, if any, on the draft Regulations from the stake holders / interested persons and had also hosted the same on the Commission's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the matter **at 3.00 PM on 03.02.2026 in the 1st Floor, Court Hall of the Commission, #16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052.** Interested persons / stakeholders / public may participate in the "Public Hearing" and make their oral / written submissions before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission
DIPR/CP/YC/5143/2025-26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL- AT CHENNAI
I.A. No. 642 of 2025
In
A.I.R. NO. 569 OF 2025

The Deputy General Manager, Karnataka Small Industries Development Corporation Limited,
AO Building, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010
...Petitioner/Appellant

-Vs-

1. **STATE BANK OF INDIA SSI Peenya Industrial Estate Branch,** 120, 100 Ft. Road, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 058
Represented by its Chief Manager, Sri Lambodar Mishra.
2. **Sri Venkatesh Murthy S.**
S/o.Sri Samarajan
Proprietor M/s. Lakshmi Engineering Works
C-271, 3rd Main I Stage, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058
...Respondents/Respondents

NOTICE

To

Sri Venkatesh Murthy S.
S/o. Sri Samarajan
Proprietor M/s. Lakshmi Engineering Works
C-271, 3rd Main I Stage, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058
...2nd respondent

Sir,

Please take notice that my client **The Deputy General Manager, Karnataka Small Industries Development Corporation Limited, having** office at **AO** Building, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010, has filed the above I.A. No. 642 of 2025 in AIR.No.569 of 2025 before The Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal- At Chennai and the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to order notice to the Respondent, No. 2 (i.e. **Sri Venkatesh Murthy S**) returnable by 06.02.2026.

Kindly take notice and be present before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal at New Additional Building, 7th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, Chennai-600 006 at 10.30 A.M. on 06.02.2026 either in person or through Counsel failing which the above application will be heard and decided in your absence.

T. R. Sundaram
Advocate, No.251,
Addl. Law Chambers,
High Court Buildings,
Chennai-600 104
Mail id: sundaram.adv@gmail.com
Cell: 94441-33193
Counsel for Petitioner/ Appellant
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO5149/25-26

Huge lines, laughs and gasps as Trump lectures Davos elite

US President's speech draws mixed reactions amid tensions

DAVOS, AFP

US President Donald Trump delivers his speech at the 56th annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday. REUTERS

To muted applause and more than a few stony faces, US President Donald Trump took the stage before hundreds of the world's rich and powerful on Wednesday for the most anticipated speech of this year's Davos forum.

Yet during the two-hour wait to get in, excitement at hearing the leader of the world's most powerful nation in person was palpable. "It's like a rock festival," one attendee said. The doors to the World Economic Forum's packed congress hall quickly closed, forcing hundreds to scramble for seats in overflow rooms to watch the speech on screens. Even Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics was stuck in line. "It's interesting that people were lining up to hear President Trump like they were not lining up to hear any other speaker — none has drawn this level of interest," Rinkevics said.

Many attendees were apprehensive about escalating tensions between Trump and Europe over his bid to seize Greenland, a crisis that has overshadowed the annual gathering's agenda. "I expect the worst. From what we know of Trump, he always needs all the attention and he needs a shock message," Julia Binder of the Swiss-based IMD Business School told AFP.

And shock he did deliver.

In one overflow room, attendees mockingly laughed and gasped throughout the speech. There were guffaws when Trump spoke about wind farms killing birds, and nervous laughter when he said he was asking for "a piece of ice", referring to Greenland.

Others muttered "oh no" when he alleged that "Canada lives because of the US". Another exclaimed, "Oh my goodness!" when Trump recalled that Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte once referred to him as "daddy".

More incredulous laughter followed when he mocked French President Emmanuel Macron for wearing sunglasses — due to a burst blood vessel — during his speech on Tuesday. There were howls when Trump again insisted: "All the US is asking for is a place called Greenland." "I would say he's gone from neocon to neo-imperial," one attendee whispered.

About an hour into Trump's address, people began leaving the overflow rooms. "He's a nutcase," one said on the way out. Some said Trump was an ideal guest for a forum known for provocative voices. "Davos is a platform for an exchange of ideas and views. We are here to listen to all views, whether we like them or not," said Daniel Marokane, chief executive of a South African power company.

Others, however, took umbrage at Trump's trademark abrasiveness and attacks, including his insistence that the US deserves Greenland as payback for its massive Nato funding. "Trump got elected because he knows how to read a room, but I'm not sure he read the room this time," said an American medical technology executive, who requested anonymity.

Reasonably close to deal on Ukraine war, says Trump

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he believes he is "reasonably close" to a deal to end the Russia-Ukraine war, though he admitted he had initially expected it to be an easier settlement, achievable within hours, PTI reports from Davos.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Trump said Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "would be stupid" not to reach an agreement — adding that he knows they are not stupid.

EU Parliament freezes US trade deal over Greenland

BRUSSELS, REUTERS: The European Parliament has decided to suspend its work on the European Union's trade deal with the United States in protest at US President Donald Trump's demands to acquire Greenland and his threats of tariffs against European allies who oppose the plan.

The EU assembly has been debating legislative proposals to remove many EU import duties on US goods — a key element of the agreement struck in Turnberry, Scotland, at the end of July — as well as to continue zero duties for US lobsters, initially agreed with Trump in 2020. The proposals require approval by both the European Parliament and EU governments.

Many lawmakers have complained that the trade deal is lopsided, with the EU required to cut most import duties while the US maintains a broad tariff rate of 15 per cent. Despite this, they had previously appeared willing to accept the agreement, albeit with conditions such as an 18-month sunset clause and measures to respond to possible surges in US imports.

The European Parliament's trade committee had been due to set its position in votes scheduled for January 26–27, but these have now been postponed.

Committee chair Bernd Lange told a news conference on Wednesday that Trump's latest tariff threats had broken the Turnberry deal.

UK House panel report flags India FTA risks

LONDON, PTI: Billions of pounds in tariff savings from Britain's free trade agreement with India could be jeopardised by deep cuts to UK export support staff who help firms use the deal in practice, an influential parliamentary panel warned in a report on Wednesday.

The House of Commons Business and Trade Committee, which scrutinises the country's trade deals, released its analysis as the government tabled the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement in Parliament for ratification.

The report found that initial duty savings for UK exporters to India could total £400 million a year, potentially rising to as much as £3.2 billion after 10 years as export volumes grow.

"Parliament is being asked to ratify a deal promising billions in tariff savings while the government is simultaneously cutting nearly 40% of the export staff needed to help exporters make the most of this new bargain. That is a serious delivery risk," said committee chair Liam Byrne.

It also flags India's "sprawling administrative system and complex and evolving red tape" as factors that could make potential gains from the pact difficult to realise.

"India's extensive non-tariff barriers, including regulatory opacity, inconsistent implementation, state-level frictions, export health certification requirements and the expanding use of Quality Control Orders, pose a material risk to UK exporters. The government must work to get all unreasonable barriers lifted," the report said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Firefighters inspect the scene of a commuter train derailment, after a containment wall fell on the track, killing the driver and injuring several people, near Barcelona, Spain, on Wednesday. REUTERS

EU lawmakers delay ratification of Mercosur trade agreement

▶ European Union lawmakers on Wednesday voted to hold up ratification of a major free trade agreement with the Mercosur group of South American countries over concerns about the legality of the deal, AP/PTI reports from Brussels.

In a vote in Strasbourg, France, lawmakers narrowly approved sending the EU–Mercosur agreement to Europe's top court to rule on whether it is in line with the bloc's treaties. The result was 334 votes in favour to 324 against, with 11 abstentions. The assembly cannot vote to approve the pact until the European Court of Justice has ruled, a process that could take months. The long-sought free trade agreement was signed on Saturday. Twenty-five years in the making, it aims to strengthen commercial ties at a time of rising protectionism and trade tensions around the world. The deal was seen as a central priority of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who shepherded it through a key vote on January 9 among the EU's 27 leaders.

US Congress targets Clintons

▶ A United States House panel was set to vote Wednesday on whether to launch contempt of Congress proceedings against Bill and Hillary Clinton over their refusal to testify before its politically charged investigation into sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, AFP reports from Washington.

The Republican-led House Oversight Committee is weighing two resolutions accusing the former president and former secretary of state of defying subpoenas to appear in person before investigators. If approved, the measures advance to the full House of Representatives, also majority Republican, which would decide whether to formally cite the Democratic power couple for contempt and refer them to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution.

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK --6

PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1775 Date: 14/01/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (30) companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC1139932	U45100KA2018PTC114566	KREATIVE MAGNITUDES PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB8948488	U66190KA2024PTC185104	FINSHILA TECH SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB9247636	U78100KA2024PTC193722	INGENIOUS FUSION TEK PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC1084991	U29309KA2017PTC102067	VAIDURAYA FORGE PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC1084267	U72900KA2019PTC129076	DHIRA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC1080373	U74999KA2019PTC124174	D.R HEALTHCARE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC1050509	U46301KA2023OPC180475	TEJASKRISHNA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC1046316	U74999KA2022PTC168902	SMART ENGINEERING ANALYSIS PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC1043908	U24299KA2021PTC149689	JAMBO PAINTS PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC1023529	U72900KA2018PTC118248	KRISHIT CONSULTANCY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC1009008	U74999KA2022PTC161359	ULTRA ICONIC SECURITY AND ALLIED SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC0979599	U32909KA2023OPC178547	ARTSYCRAFTCY HOME DECOR INDIA (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC0966945	U72900KA2016PTC092606	LMEXCELLENCE PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AB9511598	U34100KA2019PTC123071	ARCION ELECTRIC VEHICLE PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC0916176	U73100KA2024PTC194506	THRIVEASCENDMARK SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC0893809	U72200KA2015PTC078759	VP APPLIED SCIENCES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AB9547275	U72200KA2021PTC145576	NXTPAY TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC0611153	U90000KA2020PTC139606	TECH RESTORE PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC0583502	U92490KA2021PTC153090	ABOVE & BEYOND SPORTS ORGANISATION PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AC0355785	U72900KA2016PTC097898	TINOSYS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC0235401	U68200KA2025PTC198936	MAUREX SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC0205951	U93090KA2019PTC123190	DOTFLY LEARNING SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC0173025	U72900KA2022OPC159320	ROUSH IT SERVICES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC0023668	U72200KA2020OPC134504	YITARA TECHNOLOGIES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AB9862522	U68100KA2023PTC174757	JDH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AB9858355	U72900KA2019PTC120093	CAREMPATHY TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AB9847406	U27200KA2025PTC203866	EXENA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AB9788945	U15400KA2020PTC132492	OOBLE INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AB9769841	U72200KA2015PTC082375	MILDLYCLASSIC TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AB9744728	U82990KA2024PTC190338	TW PRECISION INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing

CBC 07123/11/0613/2526

Iran warns of full retaliation against US

DUBAI, AP/PTI

Iran's foreign minister issued his most direct threat yet on Wednesday against the United States after Tehran's bloody crackdown on protesters, warning that the Islamic Republic would be "firing back with everything we have if we come under renewed attack".

The comments by Abbas Araghchi, whose invitation to the World Economic Forum in Davos was rescinded over the killings, came as an American aircraft carrier group moved westwards towards the Middle East from Asia.

American fighter jets and other equipment also appear to be shifting into the region after a major US military deployment in the Caribbean saw troops seize Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro.

Meanwhile, an Iranian Kurdish separatist group in Iraq said Iran had targeted one of its bases in a drone and missile attack that killed at least one fighter. Iran did not immediately acknowledge the strike, which would mark the first foreign operation Tehran has launched since the protests began.

ABBAS ARAGHCHI
Iranian foreign minister

"Our powerful armed forces have no qualms about firing back with everything we have if we come under renewed attack.

Araghchi made the threat in an opinion article published by The Wall Street Journal. In it, the foreign minister contended that "the violent phase of the unrest lasted less than 72 hours" and again sought to blame armed demonstrators for the violence.

Videos that have emerged from Iran despite an internet shutdown appear to show security forces repeatedly using live ammunition against apparently unarmed protesters, something Araghchi did not address.

"Unlike the restraint Iran showed in June 2025, our powerful armed forces have no qualms about firing back with everything we have if we come under renewed attack," Araghchi wrote, referring to the 12-day war launched by Israel against Iran in June.

India stopped buying Russian oil, says US treasury secy

DAVOS, PTI: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has claimed that India has "stopped" buying oil from Russia after US President Donald Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on countries purchasing oil from Moscow.

Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25 per cent for its purchases of Russian oil. Speaking with Fox Business, Bessent said, "India started buying Russian oil after the (Ukraine) conflict began, but President Trump put a 25% tariff on them, and India has geared down and has stopped buying Russian oil."

India had described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" while maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest. A bill introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham has proposed a 500% tariff on secondary purchase and reselling of Russian oil. The proposal has near-unanimous backing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

While speaking on the bill, Bessent said that it is a proposal that Senator Graham has in front of the Senate and "we will see whether that passes."

Actor Rachel McAdams poses during her Hollywood Walk of Fame star ceremony in Los Angeles on Tuesday. AFP

Over 300 journalists behind bars

▶ The number of journalists imprisoned worldwide for their work was 330 in the final month of 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Wednesday, the fifth consecutive year the count has exceeded 300, AFP reports from New York.

China held 50 prisoners as of December 1, followed by Myanmar with 30 and then Israel, which detained 29 Palestinian journalists, the press freedom watchdog said in its annual report. Next was Russia with 27 prisoners, of which five were Ukrainian, then Belarus with 25 and Azerbaijan with 24, the CPJ said. In 2025, Asia remained the region with the highest number of imprisoned journalists at 110. Beyond China and Myanmar, Vietnam held at least 16, Bangladesh four, India three, and the Philippines one. The US detained Salvadoran journalist Mario Guevara in June after he covered a protest against President Donald Trump, but he was deported over his immigration status.

Tabloid case: Harry in witness box

▶ Prince Harry entered the witness box on Wednesday for his testimony against the publisher of the Daily Mail in the final round of his battle against the British tabloids, AP/PTI reports from London.

Harry says in his lengthy witness statement that he was distressed and disturbed by the intrusion of his early life by the Mail and its sister Sunday newspaper, and it made him "paranoid beyond belief." Harry and six other prominent figures, including Elton John and actor Elizabeth Hurley, allege that Associated Newspapers Ltd. invaded their privacy by engaging in a "clear, systematic and sustained use of unlawful information gathering" for two decades.

Britain's Prince Harry (left) arrives during the first week of a nine-week trial lawsuit against Associated Newspapers, publisher of the Daily Mail, at the High Court in London on Wednesday. REUTERS

Japan restarts world's largest nuclear plant

TOKYO, AP/PTI: The world's largest nuclear power plant restarted on Wednesday in Japan for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown, as resource-poor Japan accelerates the use of atomic power to meet electricity demand.

The first steps in energy production at the No 6 reactor of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant are significant because the operator is Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, the same utility that runs the ruined Fukushima Daiichi plant. TEPCO's past safety failures at Fukushima have fuelled public concerns.

EU ready to sign defence and security pact with India

STRASBOURG (FRANCE), AFP: The European Union is ready to sign a defence and security pact with India, the bloc's top diplomat said on Wednesday, as Brussels and New Delhi seek closer commercial and political ties.

Kaja Kallas made the announcement to the European Parliament in Strasbourg ahead of an EU-India summit in Delhi next week, where the deal could be inked. "Today, we agreed to move forward with the signature of a new EU-India security and defence partnership," Kallas said.

The move comes as the two geopolitical heavyweights face economic and security challenges from the world's two biggest economies, China and the United States.

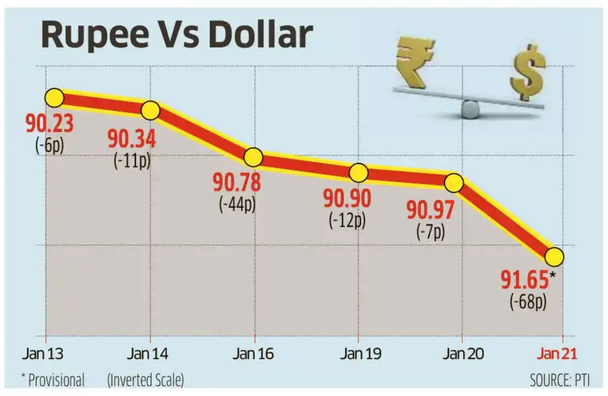
"The EU and India are moving closer together at a time when the rules-based international order is under unprecedented pressure through wars, coercion and economic fragmentation," Kallas said. "Two major democracies cannot afford to hesitate. We must become more ambitious partners."

Kallas said the defence pact would deepen cooperation in areas including maritime security, cybersecurity and counter terrorism. The EU has recently signed similar deals with Canada and Britain in a push to bring defence industries closer together.

Rupee plunges 68 paise to record low of 91.65/US dollar

Geopolitical tensions creating ripple effects across global trade

MUMBAI, PTI



The rupee plunged 68 paise to close at an all-time low of 91.65 against the US dollar on Wednesday, pressured by persistent foreign fund outflow amid heightened uncertainty and risk-off sentiment in global markets.

The rupee recorded its previous all-time low of 91.14 on December 16, 2025, and so far this month, the local unit has fallen by 1.50%, forex traders said, adding that the depreciation can be attributed to heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

Rising tensions in Europe over Greenland and potential tariffs, along with a negative trend in the domestic market, further dented investor sentiment, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.05 and lost ground to touch an intraday low of 91.74 against the greenback. The domestic unit settled for the day at an all-time low of 91.65, registering a decline of 68 paise from its previous close.

This is the steepest single-day fall for rupee since November 21 last year, when the currency dived 98 paise.

On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 90.97 against the US dollar.

"Emerging economies like India are facing pressure from volatile capital flows," Abhishek Bisen, Head-Fixed Income, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said.

Besides, geopolitical tensions, including the Greenland dispute that has strained US-Europe relations and also the control of Venezuela's oil reserves by the US, are creating ripple effects across the global trade, he said.

Bisen further noted that for India, the pending trade agreement with the US remains a key stabilising factor, as its conclusion could boost confidence and bilateral commerce.

"Also, until the geopolitical risk eases and the trade deal materialises, the rupee is likely to remain vulnerable to external shocks. However, given the strong forex reserves, the Reserve Bank of India can manage the situation as the depreciation has made INR relatively cheaper on REER basis, which shall help shore up exports," he said.

Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said the rupee plunged to a record low as heavy foreign capital outflows from domestic equities, and a prolonged delay in a US trade deal continued to weigh on market sentiment. "The currency remains under severe pressure from heightening global geopolitical uncertainties. The pace of this depreciation has been so aggressive that intermittent central bank interventions have struggled to provide a meaningful floor," Parmar said, adding that the USD-INR is "expected to find technical support at 91.08, with immediate resistance seen at 92.05".

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent lower at 98.61.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.88 per cent down at USD 63.70 per barrel in futures trade.

Bourses fall for third day amid heightened global tremors

MUMBAI, PTI: Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty recovered most of their losses to close lower in a volatile session on Wednesday, continuing their weak momentum for the third consecutive day, as heightened geopolitical tensions kept investors away from riskier assets. However, selective buying activity in some of the market heavyweights helped the indices restrict the losses, traders said.

Slipping below the 82,000 level, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 270.84 points, or 0.33%, to 81,909.63. The benchmark tanked 1,056.02 points, or 1.28%, to 81,124.45 during the day. A total of 2,831 stocks declined, while 1,437 advanced and 137 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 75 points or 0.30% to 25,157.50.

Selling pressure in financial, banking, and consumption stocks amid the rupee diving to its lowest level also added to the pressure, they added. The BSE midcap gauge tanked 1.01%, and the smallcap index declined 0.80%. Among sectoral indices, consumer durables dropped 1.24%, PSU bank (1.07%), financial services (1.02%), bankex (0.94%), capital goods (0.92%), industrials (0.91%) and private banks index (0.80%).

Gold soars near Rs 1.60 lakh/10g on worldwide buying rush

NEW DELHI, PTI: Extending the record-breaking rally, gold prices surged to a new high near Rs 1.60 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, while silver scaled a fresh peak of Rs 3.34 lakh per kg amid a worldwide chase for safe-haven assets.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9% purity soared by Rs 6,500, or 4.24%, to Rs 1,59,700 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

On Tuesday, gold breached the crucial Rs 1.5 lakh-per-10-gram milestone in the national capital for the first time.

Silver prices also continued their blistering jump for the ninth consecutive day and hit a fresh record in the local bullion market. The white metal skyrocketed by Rs 11,300 to Rs 3,34,300 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday.

According to FOREX.com, gold breached the $4,800 per ounce level for the first time in the international markets, with spot prices appreciating by $124.97, or 2.62%, to $4,888.46 per ounce.

The Eternal story so far ...

- **2008: Deepinder Goyal** launches food delivery and restaurant discovery platform Zomato
- **2013:** Albinder Singh Dhindsa, along with Saurabh Kumar, launches quick delivery platform Grofers
- **2021:** Zomato goes for public listing
- **2021:** Grofers rebrands as Blinkit
- **2022:** Zomato acquires Blinkit for Rs 4,447 crore
- **2022:** Zomato launches District Going-out
- **2025:** Rebrands as Eternal, unveils new logo
- **2026:** Goyal steps down as CEO of Eternal Group
- **2026:** Dhindsa succeeds Goyal as Group CEO of Eternal

Deepinder Goyal steps down as CEO of Eternal Group

Blinkit's Dhindsa to take over from Feb 1

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Deepinder Goyal has resigned as CEO of Eternal Group, the parent of Zomato, and the company's quick commerce arm Blinkit's CEO Albinder Singh Dhindsa will take over as the new CEO and Key Managerial Personnel of the Company, effective February 1, 2026.

In a letter to shareholders, Goyal stated that subject to shareholder approval, he will remain on the Board of Directors as Vice-Chairman.

"Of late, I have found myself drawn to a set of new ideas that involve significantly higher-risk exploration and experimentation. These are the kinds of ideas that are better pursued outside a public company like Eternal. If these ideas belonged inside Eternal's strategic scope, I would have pursued them within the company. They do not. Eternal deserves to remain focused and disciplined, while exploring new areas of growth that are relevant to its current line of business," Goyal said.

As Group CEO, Dhindsa will own day-to-day execution, operating priorities, and business decisions. "Blinkit's journey from acquisition to break-even happened under his leadership. He is more than capable of leading Eternal as Group CEO," Goyal said.

Recently, in a podcast, Goyal had said that he asked Dhindsa to step down from his role twice after the company acquired Blinkit.

Zomato acquired Blinkit (formerly Grofers) for Rs 4,447 crore in 2022. Blinkit was last valued at over $1 billion.

"As part of this transition, all of my unvested ESOPs will revert to the ESOP pool. This ensures that Eternal continues to have meaningful wealth-creation opportunities for its next generation of leaders, while strengthening long-term retention without incremental shareholder dilution," he said, adding that he wants Eternal to become the country's most-valuable company.

Goyal has been focusing on his wearables startup, Temple. He appeared wearing an experimental brain-monitoring device called Temple, but soon he faced online backlash, and subsequently he clarified, saying, "We haven't made any public commercial announcements about Temple yet. We haven't released any official device-benchmarking data. A lot of the work is still underway; we're months away from introducing preview devices to the public, if at all."

The company on Wednesday posted a 73% jump in its Q3 net profit at Rs 102 crore, compared to Rs 59 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. Its revenue from operations stood at Rs 16,315 crore, a 201% rise compared to Rs 5,405 crore in Q3FY25. Its adjusted EBITDA stood at Rs 364 crore, a 28% y-o-y growth.

Eternal's quick commerce and hyperpure businesses turned adjusted EBITDA profitable in the third quarter.

In quick commerce, NOV (net order value) growth stood at 121% y-o-y. Goyal said this is despite GST changes and seasonality. In food delivery, NOV growth recovery continued at 16.6% y-o-y.

It added 211 net new stores in the quarter, taking the total store count to 2,027. However, it was short of its guidance of 2,100 stores. This is due to GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) regulations in Delhi NCR.

India's growth momentum to sustain as demand recovers: RBI

MUMBAI, REUTERS: High-frequency indicators point to sustained growth momentum, according to the RBI's latest State of the Economy report released on Wednesday. High-frequency indicators are data collected frequently, such as GST receipts and e-way bills, among others, that point to economic activity.

The central bank noted that overall demand conditions remain strong, driven by a revival in rural demand and a gradual recovery in urban demand.

A strong rebound in the manufacturing sector and continued buoyancy in services are expected to boost growth in gross value added. Retail automobile sales showed broad-based growth across categories due to the cuts in GST, further bolstering rural demand.

"Even amidst these global uncertainties, the current state of the economy provides ground for optimism going forward," the report stated.

The GDP growth estimates for 2025-26 indicate that India will remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world, it said. RBI has projected GDP growth at 7.3% for fiscal year 2026 ending March 31, while for the next fiscal year, growth is expected at 6.7% and 6.8% for the first and second quarters, respectively.

Economic activity continued to register a strong growth in December. E-way bill generation recorded healthy expansion, supported by GST rate rationalisation, alongside stock clearance and firms' efforts to meet year-end sales targets.

Growth in GST revenue collections was primarily driven by higher import-related GST receipts, the bulletin added.

The IMF on Monday revised its growth forecast for India upwards by 0.7 percentage points to 7.3%, citing strong momentum, but said it is likely to slow to 6.4% in the following two fiscal years as cyclical factors fade.

SIDBI to get Rs 5k crore equity to enhance MSME credit

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday announced a plan to infuse Rs 5,000 crore equity in the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), a move that would help enhance credit to MSMEs and create new jobs.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave approval for capital infusion in SIDBI in three tranches, with majority of the financial support being provided in the current financial year.

The Centre, through the Department of Financial Services (DFS), will provide Rs 3,000 crore capital support to SIDBI in the current financial year at the book value of Rs 568.65 per share as on March 31, 2025.

The DFS will also infuse Rs 1,000 crore each in FY2026-27 and FY2027-28 at the book value as on March 31 of the respective previous financial year, the Union Finance Ministry said in a statement, after the Cabinet approval.

The ministry claimed that the fresh capital infusion would significantly boost credit to the MSMEs.

Post equity capital infusion of Rs 5,000 crore, the number of MSMEs to be provided financial assistance is expected to increase from 76.26 lakh at the end of FY2025, to 102 lakh (approximately 25.74 lakh new MSME beneficiaries will be added) by the end of FY2028, the ministry said.

As per the latest data (as on September 30, 2025) available from the official website of the MSME Ministry, 30.16 crore employment is generated by 6.90 crore MSMEs.

"Considering this average, employment generation is estimated to be 1.12 crore, with the expected addition of 25.74 lakh new MSME beneficiaries by the end of FY2027-28," the Finance Ministry said.

The equity shares of SIDBI are held by the Government of India and banks/institutions owned by it, and are not listed on any exchange.

With a focus on directed credit and anticipated growth in that portfolio over the next five years, the risk-weighted assets on SIDBI's balance sheet are expected to rise significantly. This increase will necessitate higher capital to sustain the same level of Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR).

The digital and digitally-enabled collateral-free credit products being developed by SIDBI, aimed at boosting credit flow, along with the venture debt being offered to start-ups, will further escalate the risk-weighted assets, requiring even more capital to meet healthy CRAR.

According to the Finance Ministry, SIDBI will benefit from an infusion of additional share capital by maintaining a healthy CRAR. This infusion of additional capital would enable SIDBI to generate resources at fair interest rates, thereby increasing the flow of credit to MSMEs at competitive cost.

Wipro CEO sees demand for India's IT services from AI

DAVOS, REUTERS: AI is underpinning technology deals that Indian software services providers are competing for, as companies move from AI test deployments to large projects, Wipro CEO Srini Pallia said.

As budget constraints loosen, Wipro is bidding for several small AI deals alongside large- and mega-deals, Pallia said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting here, without providing details. "We'll go after both (small and large deals) because different clients, industries, and markets are at different maturity stages," he told the Reuters Global Markets Forum.

Pallia acknowledged intense pricing pressure as AI compresses delivery timelines and team sizes, but predicted there will be more small deals due to AI.

Sify Tech to open data centre in Karnataka, says Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS: While ICT company Sify Technologies is set to inaugurate a new data centre facility in Karnataka shortly, Bharti Enterprises has expressed interest in setting up a data centre in the state, Industries Minister MB Patil has announced.

During the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Patil held a series of high-level meetings with global corporations, technology firms and academic institutions, highlighting Karnataka's execution capability, strong talent base and investor-friendly ecosystem.

Sify Technologies is set to inaugurate a new facility shortly, he said. Rajan Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, expressed interest in setting up a data centre in the State.

Talks with Mistral AI, a fast-growing French artificial intelligence company focused on establishing a Global Capability Centre (GCC) or R&D centre in Bengaluru.

The delegation also met Jacob Aarup-Andersen, Chief Executive Officer of Carlsberg Group, the Denmark-headquartered global brewing major.

Patil also held discussions with Imperial College London, Philip Morris International (PMI), a global tobacco and nicotine products company, PayPal Holdings Inc., a global digital payments and fintech company, and Bharat Forge Limited, a global leader in forging and precision engineering.

The Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICC), on Wednesday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka at Davos, establishing a framework to strengthen Swiss industry and investment engagement with the state under the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA). The MoU was signed between M B Patil, and Satish Rao, President, Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce.

SUCCESS LIST

Bengaluru is now the country's U40 capital, says report

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With 48 entrepreneurs, Bengaluru leads The Avendus Wealth — Hurun India U40 List 2025, positioning itself as the country's 'Under 40' capital. Of the top-10 youngest entrepreneurs featured in the list, four are from Bengaluru. Sanjay Byalal Jagannath, 36, of Exponent Energy from Bengaluru tops the list. Sanjeev Barnwal, 36, of Meesho, Swapnil Babanlal Jain, 36, Ather Energy, and Enbasekar D, 36, of MediBuddy — all from Bengaluru — are featured among the top 10.

The U40 List recognises 201 young leaders who are making a significant impact across the Indian industry.

Apurva Sahijwani, MD & CEO, Avendus Wealth Management, said, "India's under-40 entrepreneurial cohort signals a clear shift in both scale and substance. Collectively, the U40 leaders oversee enterprises valued at $357 billion, nearly one-eleventh of India's GDP, and employ more than 4.4 lakh professionals, underscoring the economic influence already exercised by this generation."

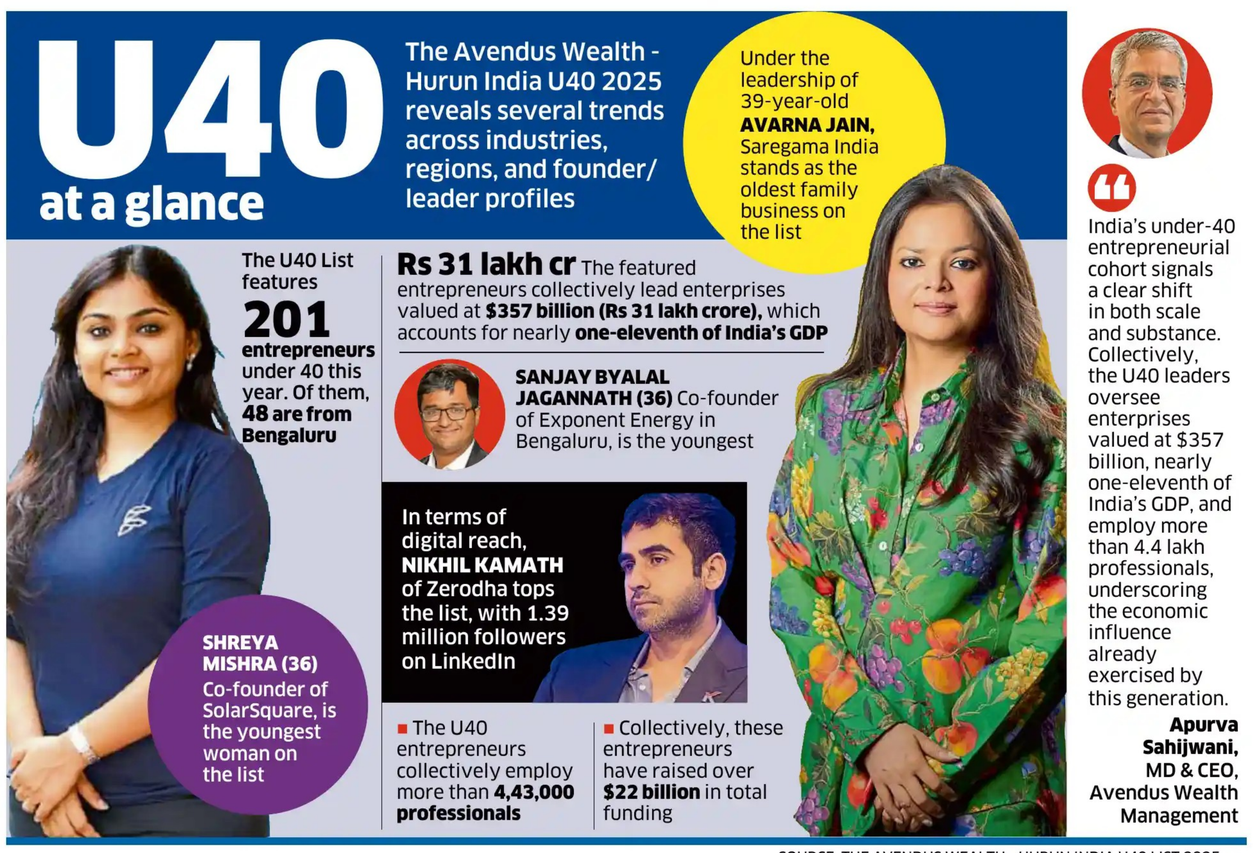
Software products and services remain the most-represented sector, alongside participation from healthcare, logistics and financial services. Equally notable is the dominance of first-generation founders, who account for over 83% of the list, Sahijwani said.

Notable entrants in the list from Bengaluru include Nandan Reddy (37), Ishan Bansal (37) and Nikhil Kamath (38). While Bengaluru has been ranked No. 1, with 43 entrepreneurs, Mumbai ranks second, followed by Gurugram with 24 entrants. With 32 companies, both Bengaluru and Mumbai top the country's U40 Headquarters Hub. As many as 15 women are highlighted in the list and the average age of the U40 cohort is 38 years.

Software Products & Services dominates as the most-represented industry, with 40 entrepreneurs, followed by healthcare with 18, transportation & logistics with 16, and financial services with 15. The U40 entrepreneurs collectively employ over 4,43,000 professionals.

In terms of funding, collectively, these entrepreneurs have raised over $22 billion.

Anas Rahman Junaid, Founder & Chief Researcher, Hurun India, said, "India's new economic engine is increasingly powered by its young leaders. First-generation founders are clearly at the heart of India's startup story, with 83% of this year's U40 honourees having built their companies from the ground up."


U40
at a glance
The Avendus Wealth - Hurun India U40 2025 reveals several trends across industries, regions, and founder/ leader profiles
Under the leadership of 39-year-old AVARNA JAIN, Saregama India stands as the oldest family business on the list
The U40 List features 201 entrepreneurs under 40 this year. Of them, 48 are from Bengaluru
Rs 31 lakh cr The featured entrepreneurs collectively lead enterprises valued at $357 billion (Rs 31 lakh crore), which accounts for nearly one-eleventh of India's GDP
SANJAY BYALAL JAGANNATH (36) Co-founder of Exponent Energy in Bengaluru, is the youngest
In terms of digital reach, NIKHIL KAMATH of Zerodha tops the list, with 1.39 million followers on LinkedIn
SHREYA MISHRA (36) Co-founder of SolarSquare, is the youngest woman on the list
The U40 entrepreneurs collectively employ more than 4,43,000 professionals
Collectively, these entrepreneurs have raised over $22 billion in total funding
India's under-40 entrepreneurial cohort signals a clear shift in both scale and substance. Collectively, the U40 leaders oversee enterprises valued at $357 billion, nearly one-eleventh of India's GDP, and employ more than 4.4 lakh professionals, underscoring the economic influence already exercised by this generation.
Apurva Sahijwani, MD & CEO, Avendus Wealth Management
SOURCE: THE AVENDUS WEALTH - HURUN INDIA U40 LIST 2025

Need greater investment in sustainability, says Joshi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union minister Pralhad Joshi said India will soon become the world's third-largest economy, and underlined the need for greater investment in sustainability and grid stability.

Speaking at a panel discussion organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, the minister said that despite substantial renewable energy investment over the past decade, significantly more is required to reach the 500-GW target by 2030.

Joshi added that the country has already begun modernising its grid through digitalisation, smart metering, and decentralised renewable energy, which has strengthened system resilience and empowered citizens.

As India moves from the fourth-largest to the third-largest economy soon, the key needed now is to ensure grid stability, he stated.

Cyclists practising at the newly inaugurated velodrome in Vijayapura. PHOTOS BY SANJEEV AKKI

Karnataka's cycling heartland

From royal-era races to a modern velodrome, Vijayapura and Bagalkot keep the wheels turning and nurture cycling talent, writes Vittal Shastri

Cycling has been part of life in the twin districts of Vijayapura and Bagalkot for more than three centuries. From competitions organised by royal families to daily rides along village roads, successive generations have kept the sport alive in the cycling capital of Karnataka. Now, a world-class velodrome in Bhutnal village on the outskirts of Vijayapura marks the latest chapter in this enduring story, offering local cyclists a dedicated space to train and build on the region's cycling heritage.

The tradition of cycling in the region can be traced back to the 17th century. The Patavardhan family, which ruled several Maratha princely states under the Bombay Presidency, was known for its patronage for sports. The rulers actively promoted several sports including cycling by organising regular inter–princely state races during annual fairs and festivals like Dasara.

Bicycles were also used by royal households to send messages across villages, with rewards given to youths who completed deliveries swiftly. "This practice helped develop a competitive spirit among young riders," said Raju Biradar, chairman of the Karnataka Amateur Cycling Association and a national gold medallist.

The British also promoted cycling in the region by introducing advanced bicycles along with providing shoes and helmets to cyclists, lending greater structure to the sport.

Even in everyday life, milkmen delivering milk door to door on bicycles often challenged one another to impromptu races, turning routine work into friendly competition. By the late 20th century, cycling had become the primary mode of transport for many villagers, especially after large-scale displacement caused by the construction of the Almatti dam. Daily long-distance rides, combined with a nutrition-rich diet of jowar *rotti* and protein-heavy curries, helped residents develop exceptional stamina. From this environment emerged accomplished cyclists such as Chandru Kurani and Rajesaab Attar, whose successes inspired many more youths to take up cycling.

Cycling starts young here

Even today, Kumbarahalla, a village with 6,000 population in Jamkhandi, remains the nerve centre of this cycling culture. Most households here have at least one cyclist. Historically, rulers from the Patavardhan family sent youths from this village to competitions in Pune, Mumbai and other cities.

"Parents start teaching their children to cycle at a young age. Most people in our village are daily wage workers who travel to Jamkhandi on their bicycles," said Yenkappa Entettu, president of the Bagalkot District Amateur Cycling Association. "Over 40 youths from our village have competed nationally, winning several medals. Many have secured jobs in government departments through sports quota. Even now, several children practise cycling, staying in government sports hostels."

Despite abundant talent, funding has been a challenge for the region's more than 300 professional cyclists. Despite producing national-level cyclists, many families in Kumbarahalla cannot even afford low-cost bicycles.

Sugar factories and banks have stepped in to sponsor mega cycling competitions. In 2005, political leader Late Siddu Nyamagouda of Jamkhandi initiated a national cycling competition to mark the 25th anniversary of the Chikkapadasalagi barrage, built in 1980 with local farmer participation. But these efforts seem inadequate, given the region's talent.

The demand for a dedicated velodrome for training had been long-standing in the region. In the 1990s, expert cyclists from this region were forced to travel to cities such as Pune and Hyderabad for regular practice. Many others trained on national highways, exposing themselves to serious risks. Several cyclists were injured in accidents, and a few even lost their lives. To address these concerns, the Vijayapura district administration sent a proposal to the state government in 2000, seeking to establish a velodrome on eight acres of land near Vijayapura city. The project received approval in 2004–05. However, despite repeated attempts to invite tenders, no contractor came forward to execute the project.

"Constructing a fast, safe and durable riding surface for a velodrome is a highly specialised, multidisciplinary engineering task that requires precise geometry, advanced materials and unique structural systems. Not many contractors, including the Karnataka Land Army Corporation, had the expertise to execute such a project," recalled Raju Biradar.

A breakthrough came in September 2020, when a government team led by then Deputy Commissioner P Sunil Kumar visited velodromes in Chennai and Hyderabad to study their design and construction. After delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, work finally resumed with the involvement of Kolkata-based cyclist Pinaki Bysack.

"Building a velodrome is extremely challenging. The earlier design would not have sustained long-term use. We corrected the design issues and handed over a fully functional velodrome to the district administration in 2025," Bysack said.

In January 2026, the Rs 10 crore velodrome was formally inaugurated.

A long way to go

While the velodrome has lifted spirits, cyclists say infrastructure in the state still lags behind when compared to states such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana. Equipment remains scarce despite government hostels in Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Belagavi and Gadag providing training in cycling.

"We have won 18 overall championships and finished as runners-up four times in national events. Around 75 cyclists have competed internationally," Biradar said. "Yet many cannot afford high-end bicycles, costing from Rs 1.5 lakh to over Rs 10 lakh. Continued support from banks and industries remains crucial."

Cyclists are also demanding adequate pensions after retirement, as well as greater priority for young cyclists in government jobs.

"Currently, Cycling Federation of India office-bearers are concentrated in northern India, leaving talent from Vijayapura-Bagalkot region underrepresented," said national coach Muttappa Maranur. "We need a high-performance training centre, like those in Delhi and Punjab, to harness the potential here. Apart from the velodrome, a dedicated cycling academy can provide scientific training, biomechanics support and coaching for young cyclists," he added.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A book club that breaks the mould

Rajkumar Kulkarni writes about a youth initiative in Bagalkot that is nurturing reading culture among people

Recently, Odu Geleyara Balaga, a group of literary enthusiasts from Bagalkot, came together to discuss three plays by author Vikram Visaji — *Rasagangadhara*, *Raktavilapa* and *Kalyanapura*.

But breaking away from the usual conventions of literary programmes, the session was refreshingly informal and simple. Seated on the floor beneath a pavilion in a city park, a disciplined group of literature lovers engaged in an open and friendly discussion. Though the audience was small, every attendee was attentive and curious, united by a shared interest in Kannada literature.

Visaji was impressed by the simplicity and sincerity of the programme.

After sharing snacks and tea prepared by the group members, participants dispersed with renewed literary enthusiasm.

Odu Geleyara Balaga was formed by a small group of like-minded readers led by young writer Anil Gunnapur. Over the past six years, the group has organised 15 to 20 such sessions focusing on various Kannada literary forms including short stories, novels, poetry, plays and essays.

Works by writers such as S Gangadharaiah, Aaradi Mallayya, Lakshman Badami, Kapila Humanabade, Anil Gunnapur, Mallikarjun Shellikeri and Rajkumar Kulkarni have been discussed so far. During the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations a couple of months ago, the group dedicated a special session to the recitation of Kannada poetry written by young and veteran poets.

"During every session, we invite one guest author. The selection is based on the quality of their work, not their popularity. Participants discuss their literary work in the presence of the author," says Anil.

Each session usually draws 30 to 40 participants.

The Balaga members — most of whom are young writers themselves — bring together a diverse mix of literature lovers, ranging from students and homemakers to retirees and business people.

Often, passers-by visiting the park also join in, drawn by curiosity.

"We do not measure success by the number of participants. What matters is the interest and involvement they show," says Mahantesh Hodlur, a guest lecturer at a Jamkhandi college and a member of the group.

Rajshekhar Kukkunda, an engineering college professor who has attended some sessions, observes that many literary meets today, including prestigious ones, have lost relevance. "Most have become one-sided talks with little room for healthy discussion. Odu Geleyara Balaga defies this trend, even if on a small scale," he says.

According to him, every participant reads the selected literary work beforehand and comes prepared with notes and points for discussion. "They listen attentively, ask questions freely and discuss doubts without hesitation."

The initiative began in 2019, when Anil Gunnapur and a few friends — who regularly exchanged books and discussed their readings — decided to formalise their interactions. Their aim was to create a meaningful literary atmosphere in Bagalkot and promote reading habits.

"When I returned to Bagalkot after 2015 to work at the government survey office, having discontinued my engineering degree, I felt a void in the city's literary circles. Most programmes felt ritualistic. We felt the need to fill that gap," recalls Anil. He adds that his greatest inspiration has been his mother, Shobha, who studied only up to Class 9 but remains an avid reader and writer.

The group operates without major funding. Minor expenses are shared by the members themselves.

Looking ahead, Odu Geleyara Balaga plans to encourage reading among youngsters by gifting books and motivating them to attend sessions. They also hope to organise discussions at historical and culturally significant locations around Bagalkot and produce a short film on local history.

Enthusiasts supported by Odu Geleyara Balaga engage in an open and friendly discussion on a literary work, at a park in Bagalkot. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

More than a spice, the versatile Jummana Kayi

From seafood curries to Yakshagana costumes, this tree enriches coastal life in more ways than one, writes Surendra Pai

While exploring Mirjan Fort, the Aghanashini river, and hillocks and forests near Uttara Kannada's Kumta during a school trip, my students came across an unusually shaped tree.

Towering into the sky, its trunk and branches were covered with thick, sharp thorns. Beneath it lay small, dried black fruits giving off a distinctive, heady aroma. Drawn by the smell, some children felt like tasting it. However, they wondered whether the fruit was edible. Their fears eased when Rami Gouda, an 80-year-old man from the Halakki community accompanying us, said, "Don't worry. This isn't poisonous. It is *jummana kayi* which offers a peculiar tingling sensation, particularly on tongues. We use it in fish curry." The encounter sparked curiosity about this intriguing forest produce in me.

Found mainly in Karnataka's coastal belt, *jummana kayi* is botanically known as *Zanthoxylum rhetsa.* Its common name in English is Indian prickly ash. The thorny, medium-leaved tree grows widely in the forests of Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Sirsi, Siddapur and surrounding regions including Goa. Locally it has several names: *gavanti mara* in local Kannada, *teppal or terpal* in Konkani and *kavatti kayi* or *petala* in Tulu.

The name *jummana kayi* is traced either to the tree's heavily thorned bark or to the tingling sensation the fruit produces. Endemic to the Western Ghats, the tree grows 30–35 metres tall. After the monsoon, it bears white flowers and by November–December, fruits appear in grape-like clusters.

Harvesting is difficult as the tree cannot be climbed directly. Collectors instead climb neighbouring trees and use bamboo sticks fitted with hooks to gather the fruits into large cloth bags. Once harvested, the seeds are extracted and the fruits are sun-dried, releasing a stronger aroma. When properly stored, the fruit can last for a year.

Halakki women gather the fruit and sell it in Gokarna, Ankola and Kumta markets, where locals and tourists eagerly buy it. "Earlier, a cluster was sold for Rs 5–10. Now it costs Rs 50–60," says a woman trader. "There are fewer trees and fewer people willing to harvest them but it gives us a livelihood," she adds.

A prized ingredient

Jummana Kayi is a key ingredient in coastal seafood. The woody pericarp of the fruit is used as a spice, especially in curries made with Indian mackerel or sardines. It enhances flavour while easing digestion and countering the heaviness caused by fish consumption. The spice is closely related in taste to Sichuan pepper (*Zanthoxylum piperitum*), widely used in Chinese and Thai cuisines. It is also used in vegetarian dishes — with ladies' finger, potato and coconut-based preparations. "In Konkani households, we prepare *teppala ambat*, a curry using the spice. The curry is eaten with rice, *dosas* and *kotte kadubu* (steamed dumplings)," says Padma Pai of Kumta. Ayurvedic medicine uses *jummana kayi* extensively for its analgesic properties, including in pain-relief sprays.

Yakshagana ornament

The thick bark once had a role in Yakshagana costume-making. "Earlier, we used the bark to make crowns, and shoulder and chest ornaments," recalls veteran Yakshagana artiste Vidyadhara Rao Jalavalli.

"The hardness of the bark made the ornaments durable. But as the tree has become rare and traditional arisans have disappeared, mango or *kadamba* trees are now used alongside plastic or fibre ornaments," says Yakshagana artiste Kondadakuli Ramachandra Hegde. Elderly residents recall other uses. "In the past, the thorns were carved into seals, and sticks from the tree were used like batons," says 90-year-old Hanumantha Gouda from Ankola.

A toy

Raw *jummana kayi* is also used as a toy. It is used as pellets triggered by a traditional wooden pipe-like toy, producing a sharp "thad" sound that delights children. The toy is commonly sold during the annual Vitla Pindi festival (Mosaru Kudike) in Udupi.

Once common across forests and hillocks, *jummana kayi* is slowly vanishing. Hard-to-harvest trees are being lopped for branches, while deforestation and expanding human settlements have shrunk their habitat.

However, the forest department is cultivating this species in its nurseries in Karwar and Ankola. Protecting the tree is important — not just to preserve its distinctive flavour, but also to ensure its survival in the local ecosystem.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

The thorny trunk of jummana kayi tree found mainly in Karnataka's coastal belt; raw and dried fruits. PHOTOS BY ARTI DAS AND AUTHOR

Suhaib's brace powers FC Mangalore

LOCAL FOOTBALL

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohammed Suhaib's two quick goals in the first half powered FC Mangalore to a convincing 5-1 win over Infinite Belagavi FC in the BDFA B Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

Suhaib found the back of the net in the 29th and 33rd minutes before three of his team-mates -- Afsal B (55th), Yangam Bam Peter (60th) and Hafis PA (64th) -- scored the remaining three goals in the second half of the game. The struggling Infinite Belagavi FC could only get on the scoreboard courtesy an own goal by Kailash R Nath in the 53rd minute.

In the other match of the day, Bangalore Gunners FC defeated Young Blues Elite FC 3-0.

Results: Group B: FC Mangalore: 5 (Mohammed Suhaib 29th, 33rd, Afsal B 55th, Yangam Bam Peter 60th, Hafis PA 64th) bt Infinite Belagavi FC: 1 (Kailash R Nath 53rd OG); William FC: 2 (Rohith Y 31st, Harish K 57th) bt Revive FC: 0; Bangalore Gunners FC: 3 (Nikhil Jude Mohan 41st, Aryan A 43rd, Rahul M 73rd) bt Young Blues Elite FC: 0.

Opus Dei wins feature event

MUMBAI RESULTS

Imtiaz Sait-trained Opus Dei, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, won the Kailashpat Singhania Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Wednesday.

1. A.Hoyt Plate - 1200M: Ensky (Mrs Seema Kamlesh) C Umesh 1; Tropical Paradise (David Allan) 2; Lara (G Vivek) 3; Viennoise (A.Omkar) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, Snk, Nk. T: 1:10.79. TB: Faisal Abbas. Fav: Ensky.

2. Ravishankar Gupta Salver (Div-II) - 1600M: Marius (Mehermosh Deboo) Kirtish Bhagat 1; Her Charge (Bhawani Singh) 2; Renoir (A.Prakash) 3; Abhyankar (Yash Narredu) 4; Wb: Nk, 1-1/2L, Shd. T: 1:37.490. TB: Pesi Shorff. Fav: Bright Button.

3. Nadia Mary Homi Wadia Trophy - 1200M: Queen Of Beauties (Cyrus Poonawalla) Akshay Kumar 1; Caviar Queen (Antony Raj) 2; Minari (A.Prakash) 3; Youreemyeyesbaby (Ajinkya) 4; Not Run: Shaandaar. Wb: Nk, 2, 3/4L. T: 1:10.82. TB: Aman Altaf Hussain. Fav: Caviar Queen.

4. Heritage Of Grooming Trophy - 1000M: Chelsea (Jatin Trivedi) Nirmal Jodha 1; Majestic Warrior (B.Nikhil) 2; El Moran (Avinash Paswan) 3; Undercover (C.Umesh) 4; Not Run: Mojo. Wb: 1-1/4, Lnk, 2L. T: 0:58.05. TB: Pradeep Chouhan. Fav: El Moran.

5. Ravishankar Gupta Salver (Div-II) - 1600M: Land Of Plenty (Vivek Lalwani) Ramswarup 1; Allez L Etoile (A.Prakash) 2; Youreforfame (S.Kamble) 3; Semurg (T.S.JOdha) 4; Not Run: Brasiler. Wb: 1-1/2, 1/2, 3-1/2L. T: 1:36.99. TB: Subhag Singh. Fav: Allez L Etoile.

6. Kailashpat Singhania Trophy - 1600M: Opus Dei (Aryama Sundaram) Neeraj Rawal 1; Singer Sargent (Merchant) 2; Eagle Day (A.Prakashl) 3; Chagall (Siddharth) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, Shd, 1-1/2L. T: 1:36.68. TB: Imtiaz Sait. Fav: Eagle Day.

7. Edgar Deslyva Salver - 1400M: Matisse (K.N.Dhunjubhoy) Siddharth 1; Red Bishop (G.Vivek) 2; Amazing Ruler (Merchant) 3; Seneca (Antony Raj) 4; Wb: Nk, 1-1/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1:22.36. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Bishop.

8. Dr AH Sayed Plate - 1400M: Lord Murphy (Jaydev Mody) Ramswarup 1; Baleno (S.A.Amit) 2; Its My Way (Bhawani Singh) 3; Mighty Hero (Antony Raj) 4; Wb: 4-1/4, 3, 3/4L. T: 1:24.00. TB: Shazaan Shah. Fav: Lord Murphy.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 22w; 13, 12, 25p; Fc: Rs 69; Q: Rs 47; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 466 & 305; Ex: Rs 791 & 185.
II race: Rs 218w; 30, 16, 19p; Fc: Rs 2,269; Q: Rs 657; Shp: Rs 43; Thp: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 14,791 & 6,339; Ex: Rs 41,709 & 17,875.
III race: Rs 26w; 15, 12, 24p; Fc: Rs 52; Q: Rs 18; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 313 & 285; Ex: Rs 8,005 & 1,960.
IV race: Rs 46w; 14, 33, 12p; Fc: Rs 789; Q: Rs 252; Shp: Rs 78; Thp: Rs 65; Tri: Rs 1,217 & 176; Ex: Rs 47,797.
V race: Rs 106w; 24, 13, 11p; Fc: Rs 838; Q: Rs 262; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 49; Tri: Rs 1,452 & 792; .Ex: Rs 28,383 (c/o).
VI race: Rs 36w; 14, 22, 13p; Fc: Rs 178; Q: Rs 141; Shp: Rs 56; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 404 & 129; Ex: Rs 1,336 & 547.
VII race: Rs 50w; 22, 10, 21p; Fc: Rs 192; Q: Rs 68; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 383 & 227; Ex: Rs 1,896 & 1,069.
VIII race: Rs 18w; 12, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 141; Q: Rs 58; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 292 & 114; Ex: Rs 1,078 & 498.
Jackpot: 24,175 (25). **Runner-Up:** 5,180 (50). **I treble:** Rs 5,478 (13). **II treble:** Rs 3,534 (25).

Ashwa Pathan favourite for Janpath Plate

DELHI SELECTIONS

S Nawab-trained Ashwa Pathan, to be ridden by AS Peter, is the favourite in the small field of four runners in the fray for the Janpath Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Thursday. The races start from 2 pm.

1. India Gate Plate - 1600M: Banksy 1, Jet Space 2.
2. Janpath Plate - 1600M: Ashwa Pathan 1, Tripurari 2.
3. Rajpath Plate - 1100M: Robust 1, Cheiftain 2, Master Multitude 3.
4. Republic Day Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Winning Legacy 1, Stylish Dancer 2, Shahzada 3.
5. Republic Day Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Rhapsody In Green 1, Insta Millionaire 2, Divine Right 3.
6. Constitution Of India Plate - 1000M: Nizbati Malang 1, Super Speed 2, Royal Baby 3.
Day's best: Banksy.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: 4, 5 & 6.

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Top seeds flex their muscles

Medvedev wins in four sets after Alcaraz, Sabalenka's dominating shows

MELBOURNE, AFP

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns during his straight-set second-round victory over Germany's Yannick Hanfmann at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Thursday. AFP

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz fended off a series of "bombs" before surging into the Australian Open third round on Wednesday, where he was joined by Aryna Sabalenka and a near-flawless Coco Gauff.

Three-time finalist Daniil Medvedev needed four sets to keep his Grand Slam dream on track at a cooler Melbourne Park after days of hot weather.

Alexander Zverev, the third seed well beaten in last year's final by Jannik Sinner, also went through in four sets.

Spanish superstar Alcaraz came through 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena against hard-hitting German Yannick Hanfmann to take another step towards a career Grand Slam.

But the 22-year-old was put through his paces by a player 12 years older before setting up a showdown with France's Corentin Moutet.

If Alcaraz does win the Australian Open to complete the career Grand Slam of all four majors, he would be the youngest man to do so, surpassing compatriot Rafael Nadal, who was 24 when he achieved that feat.

The unpredictable Medvedev, runner-up in 2021, 2022 and 2024, is trying to keep his emotions in check this year and was on his best behaviour against Frenchman Quentin Halys.

He lost a tight first set but the result was never in doubt as he surged to the finish line 6-7 (9/11), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Heavy rain fell late in the evening, delaying Zverev's match against France's Alexandre Muller for more than 30 minutes. The break failed to derail the German's victory charge, which resumed under a closed roof, as he won 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

World No. 1 Sabalenka started in imperious mood.

The four-time major winner raced into a 5-0 lead over qualifier Bai Zhuoxuan, ranked a lowly 702, on centre court before wobbling to give the Chinese player a glimmer of hope.

But the top seed quickly snuffed it out to race home 6-3, 6-1.

Bhambri-Goransson win

India's top doubles player Yuki Bhambri, partnering Sweden's Andre Goransson, advanced to the second round of the men's doubles event at the Australian Open with a straight-sets win on Wednesday, reports PTI.

The 10th-seeded Indo-Swedish pair defeated wild card entrants James Duckworth and Cruz Hewitt 6-3, 6-4 in a contest that lasted 57 minutes on Court 13.

Key Results: Round 2: Men's singles: 1-Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) bt Yannick Hanfmann (Ger) 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-2; 19-Tommy Paul (USA) bt Thiago Tirante (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 14-Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (ESP) bt Reilly Opelka (USA) 6-3, 7-6 (3), 5-7, 4-6, 6-4; 10-Alexander Bublik (Kaz) bt Marton Fucsovics (Hun) 7-5, 6-4, 7-5; 6-Alex De Minaur (Aus) bt Hamad Medjedovic (SRB) 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-2, 6-1; 3-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Alexandre Muller (Fra) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; 18-Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) bt Damir Dzumhur (BIH) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 13-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt Jaime Faria (Por) 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5; 11-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Quentin Halys (Fra) 6-7 (9), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
Women's singles: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) bt Bai Zhuoxuan (CHN) 6-3, 6-1; Anastasia Potapova (AUT) bt 28-Emma Raducanu (GBR) 7-6 (3), 6-2; 17-Victoria Mboko (Can) bt Caty McNally (USA) 6-4, 6-3; 14-Clara Tauson (Den) bt Polina Kudermetova (Uzb) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; 3-Coco Gauff (USA) bt Olga Danilovic (SRB) 6-2, 6-2; 19-Karolina Muchova (Cze) bt Alycia Parks (USA) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 12-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Linda Klimovicova (Pol) 7-5, 6-1; 8-Mirra Andreeva (Rus) bt Maria Sakkari (Gre) 6-0, 6-4.

Oliynykova calls for ban on Russian, Belarusian players

Aryna Sabalenka Wednesday said she "didn't want to talk politics" after Ukraine's Oleksandra Oliynykova called for Belarusian and Russian players to be banned from tennis.

The 25-year-old Oliynykova, whose father is fighting on the front lines in Ukraine, had said on Tuesday that the presence of players from those two countries was "very wrong" while the conflict continued.

Oliynykova, after losing to defending champion Madison Keys on her Slam debut, wore a T-shirt at her press conference emblazoned with: "I need your help to protect Ukrainian women and children but I can't talk about it here."

Under Grand Slam tournament guidelines, players are prohibited from making political statements at competition venues.

But in an interview with Melbourne's The Age newspaper she took aim at Russian and Belarusian players.

Sabalenka, who is Belarusian, has previously said she believes that sport "is nothing to do with politics."

Bodo shocker for Man City

Arsenal win; Holders PSG stumble in Lisbon

PARIS, AFP

Manchester City were on the wrong side of one of the biggest shocks in Champions League history on Tuesday night while holders Paris Saint-Germain also stumbled but Gabriel Jesus helped keep Arsenal perfect.

Pep Guardiola's Man City arrived in chilly Norway for their seventh and penultimate league-phase match against modest Bodo/Glimt as hot favourites.

But they came unstuck in the freezing conditions at the stadium 200km north of the Arctic Circle, losing 3-1.

Meanwhile, PSG have work to do to ensure direct qualification to the last 16 next week after being caught out late in Portugal.

Luis Suarez struck twice for Sporting Lisbon in the second half, sealing victory with a 90th-minute header after substitute Khvicha Kvaratskhelia had equalised for PSG after 79 minutes.

The French club dropped to fifth with a home date against Newcastle in their last group stage fixture.

While the top eight secure direct entry to the last 16, teams placed ninth to 24th must navigate an additional two-legged play-off to join them.

Next week the league phase comes to a dramatic denouement with all 18 matches kicking off at the same time.

Real, under new coach Alvaro Arbeloa, produced a dazzling attacking display to help fans forget recent disappointments.

Kylian Mbappe struck twice against his former side and Vinicius Junior -- jeered by his own fans during a home win over Levante last weekend -- scored a brilliant goal to lift the record 15-time European champions from seventh to second behind unstoppable Arsenal.

Results: Bodo/Glimt: 3 (Hogh 22nd, 24th, Hauge 58th) bt Manchester City: 1 (Cherki 60th); Inter: 1 (Sucic 18th) lt to Arsenal: 3 (Jesus 10th, 31st, Gyokeres 84th); Real Madrid: 6 (Mbappe 5th, 26th, Mastantuono 51st, Kehrer 55th OG, Vinicius Junior 63rd, Bellingham 80th) bt Monaco: 1 (Teze 72nd); Villarreal: 1 (Oluwaseyi 49th) lt to Ajax: 2 (Gloukh 61st, Edvardsen 90th); Kairat Almaty: 1 (Sadybekov 90+2nd) lt to Club Brugge: 4 (Stankovic 32nd, Vanaken 38th, Vermant 74th, Mechele 84th); Copenhagen: 1 (Larsson 72nd) drew with Napoli: 1 (McTominay 39th); Olympiacos: 2 (Costinha 2nd, Taremi 45+1st) bt Bayer Leverkusen: 0; Sporting Lisbon: 2 (Suarez 74th, 90th) bt PSG: 1 (Kvaratskhelia 79th); Tottenham: 2 (Romero 14th, Solanke 37th) bt Borussia Dortmund: 0.

Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus (third from right) heads in a goal in his side's 3-1 win over Inter Milan at San Siro in Milan on Tuesday night. REUTERS

Sindhu, Srikanth and Lakshya advance at Indonesia Masters

JAKARTA, PTI: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the second round of their respective events at the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Kidambi Srikanth

Fifth seed Sindhu registered a hard-fought 22-20, 21-18 win over Japan's Manami Suizu in a 53-minute women's singles first-round match.

Former world No. 1 Srikanth, currently ranked 33rd in the world, endured a gruelling contest before outlasting world No. 22 Koki Watanabe of Japan 21-15, 21-23, 24-22 in one hour and 12 minutes. He will next face fourth seed Chou Tien Chen, who defeated Ireland's Nhat Nguyen 21-14, 21-15.

Seventh seed Lakshya, the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, opened his campaign with a 21-13, 16-21, 21-14 victory over Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in the opening round.

Seventh seed Lakshya, who won the Australia Open last year, will face Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan next.

Among other Indians, Anmol Kharb notched up a straight-game 21-16, 21-17 win over Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei to move into the second round.

However, Ayush Shetty, HS Prannoy and Kiran George exited in the opening round.

While Ayush suffered 8-21, 13-21 loss to eighth seed Alwi Farhan of Indonesia, Kiran lost 17-21, 14-21 to Indonesia's Moh Zaki Ubaidillah. H S Prannoy went down 19-21, 11-21 to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia.

Rahul, Aarav storm into finals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Promising youngster Rahul Williams powered into the junior boys' snooker final with a lopsided 4-0 win over fellow Tamil Nadu cueist Jabez Naveen Kumar in the National championships in Bahadurgarh, Haryana on Wednesday.

The 14-year-old from Coimbatore will lock horns with Maharashtra's Aarav Sancheti in the title clash. Aarav overcame another Tamil Nadu player, Abdul Saif, 4-2 in the other semi-final.

Results: Boys: Junior: Snooker: Semifinals: Rahul Williams (TN) bt Jabez Naveen Kumar (TN) 4-0 (51-6, 68-38, 92-41, 49-47); Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt A Abdul Saif (TN) 4-2 (52-53, 63-28, 45-77, 74-9, 56-36, 49-19).
Quarterfinals: Saif bt Laxminarayanan (TN) 4-0 (91-33, 61-35, 71-38, 58-6); Sancheti bt Awad Basar (Mah) 4-1 (40-77, 98-0, 60-21, 84-7, 60-25); Williams bt Mayank Karthik (Kar) 4-2 (22-78, 12-67, 43-31, 66-39, 64-57, 58-45); Jabez bt Mayur Garg (RSPB) 4-3 (62-44, 69-37, 10-65, 53-37, 32-73, 50-60, 67-18).
Sub-junior: Billiards (Quarters): Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Jaikrishaanth Yadav (TN) 247-110; Mohammad Mustafa (Kar) bt Kabeer Shah (Guj) 195-134; Vaibhav Chadha (Tel) bt KS Vedhaanth (TN) 119-133; Rahul Williams (TN) bt R Deepakarthi (TN) 421-52.

Monish, Vihitha shine bright

BENGALURU, DHNS

Lakshya S topped the podium in the women's 100m and 200m breaststroke events at the State Games in Tumakuru on Wednesday. DH FILE PHOTO

Swimmers Monish PV and Vihitha Nayana won the 100m freestyle events of the men's and women's categories respectively on the penultimate day of the Karnataka State Games in Tumakuru on Wednesday.

Monish clocked 56.22 seconds to win the men's event while Vihitha posted a timing of 1:02.51 in the women's final to win the blue riband events of swimming. Yash Pal emulated the same in the men's category.

Lakshya S dominated the women's breaststroke events, winning both the 100m and 200m events.

Meanwhile in handball, Hassan entered the semifinals of the men's and women's handball tournaments at the Tumkur University Grounds.

In the men's section, Hassan and Bengaluru Urban will face each other in the first semifinal, while Mysuru and Bengaluru Rural will clash in the second semi-final.

Results: Winners Only: Men: Basketball final: Young Orions: 76 bt Bank of Baroda: 71.
Gymnastics: All-round individual: Chiranth V Shetty; **Table:** Chiranth V Shetty; **Floor exercise:** Chiranth V. Shetty; **Pommel horse:** 1. Gangardha Matti; **Parallel bars:** Jeevan HS; **Steel rings:** Trishul Gowda BN; **High bar:** Darshan DM; **Artistics gymnastics team:** Bengaluru.
Swimming: Men: 50m freestyle: Pruthvik DS (25.78s); **100m freestyle:** Monish PV (56.22); **100m breaststroke:** Yash Pal (1:08.24); **200m breaststroke:** Yash Pal (2:34.03); **200m butterfly:** Anish Aniruddha Kore (2:13.76); **200m backstroke:** Vedanta Madhira (2:17.52); **400m freestyle:** Yajat KP (4:21.18); **800m freestyle:** Dhrupad Ramakrishna (9:03.61); **4x100m relay:** Bengaluru South (Vendanta Madhira, Surya Jhoyappa, Raghav Swachandam, Anish Kore - 4:24.98).
Women: 50m freestyle: Charitha Phanindranath (27.82s); **100m freestyle:** Vihitha Nayana (1:02.51); **100m breaststroke:** S Lakshya (1:18.90); **200m breaststroke:** S Lakshya (2:51.62); **200m butterfly:** Janya BS (3:05.27); **200m backstroke:** Tanmayi Dharmesh (2:41.20); **400m freestyle:** Rishika MV (5:20.14) **800m freestyle:** Janya BS (10:50.15); **4x100m relay:** Bengaluru South (Janya BS, S Lakshya, Vihitha Nayana, Tisya Sonar 4:56.32).
Mixed: Swimming: 4x100m freestyle: Bengaluru West (Hitaishi V, Bhashika BK, Pratish S, Dhoneesh N - 4:09.15).
Weightlifting: 110kg: Girish U
Women: Basketball final: DIES: 30 bt DYES Vidyanagar: 18
Gymnastics: All-round individual: Riya M; **Floor exercise:** Riya M; **Table Vault:** Riya M; **Balancing beams:** Riya Singh Umrao. **Annivan Bars:** Saivi Pinal Kumar Dave; **Women's team:** Bengaluru.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender to establish Transformer repair center through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal For Repairs and Reconditioning of 11kV class single coil/multi coil Conventional (Aluminium wound) and 3,4,5 Star Rated failed Distribution Transformers of various Capacities from 25 to 500 KVA and Conversion of CSP to Conventional bolt & nut type on lumpsum Rate basis (Material, Labour & Salvage) at Transformer repair center in Tumkur Taluk/Tumkur Division of BESCOM jurisdiction vide following enquiry Numbers:

Sl. No.	Name of the Repair Center	Indent No.	Approximate Amount put to tender (Rs. In Crores)
1	Tumkur	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0407	5.60

The Bid documents will be available from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or after **22.01.2026.** The last date for submission of bids is upto **05.02.2026 at 5:00 PM.**
The Tenders can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal by visiting Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Ele.), Operations-1, BESCOM, 3rd Floor, K.R.Circle, Bangalore-560 001, Ph.No: 080-22085074.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL
(A Govt. of Karnataka Under Medical Institution)
Registered No. : KOL-S243-2012-13
Date : 15-03-2013
Phone : 08539 225522 / 23
E-Mail : directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Website : www. www.kimskoppal.com

No. : K.I.M.S./Koppal/Tender/2025-26/645 Date : 21-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for **Supply of Equipments Radiology Department KIMS Koppal** under **Two Cover Bid System** as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka. **Tender Approximate Cost : 120.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1,80,000/-.**

Tender Documents may Download from the : 22-01-2026 from 5.30 p.m.

Further information may be obtained from the above Office During Office hours & also from **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and this Office **Website : www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in**

Sd/- Director,
Koppal Institute Of Medical Sciences, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/632/Manipal/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಫೋ:-(0836)2213838 Email: eedharwad@gmail.com

ನಂ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿಎಂಪಿ/66/07/02/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-01-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ನಂ:- ದಿನಾಂಕ:

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, PWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನ

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ.53425/30.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ.53901/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	3)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53736/11.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ.53896/9.93ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ	5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ.54149/13.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	6)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54106/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ.54150/2.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ	8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ.54100/20.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ	9)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54147/2.25ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54105/ 14.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52924/4.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ	12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53145/18.45ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ
13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53141/7.10ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ	14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53151/13.45ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52884/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53571/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54078/45.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54075/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-1
19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54141/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54143/49.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54145/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ
22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54158/5.11ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54159/4.05ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	24) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54160/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
25) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53075/13.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	26) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53103/6.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	27) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53104/41.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ
28) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53200/28.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	29) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53994/32.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	30) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53099/16.45ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
31) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53101/38.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-1	32) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53113/40.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ	33) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52272/6.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
34) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54088/26.60ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ	35) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54213/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	36) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52551/3.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ
37) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54161/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ	38) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49114/34.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	39) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 48837/30.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
40) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52330/16.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ	41) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49798/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	42) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49799/14.01ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
43) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49822/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	44) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52217/23.60ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ	45) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 51957/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
46) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 51130/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ	47) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49066/7.27ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	48) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49777/16.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
49) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49610/16.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	50) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 51287/14.10ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-2ಎ	51) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49139/2.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
52) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 49130/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	53) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53106/6.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	54) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53110/6.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
55) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53107/37.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	56) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 54212/9.80ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	

15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನ 57) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 53667/4.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 58) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ. 52489/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

ಒಟ್ಟು 58 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.966.97 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ** ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2213838 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅ.ನಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 58 ರವರೆಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22-01-2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.**

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (1 ರಿಂದ 52 ಕ್ಕೆ) 1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **9.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ** 2) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **10.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.30 ಗಂಟೆ**
ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (53 ರಿಂದ 58 ಕ್ಕೆ) 1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **2.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ** 2) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **03.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ**

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/1129/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Tickets on sale for Ind-Dutch tie

▸ The tickets for India's Davis Cup match against the Netherlands, to be staged at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association on February 7 and 8, are now live, reports DHNS.

The tickets for the round 1 Qualifiers can be purchased on Ticketgenie: https://ticketgenie.in/ticket/Davis-Cup-Qualifiers-2026.

The contest will get underway with two singles matches on the opening day before shifting focus to the doubles and the reverse singles on day two. The official draw ceremony will take place on February 6.

Audi unveils new F1 car

▸ German manufacturer Audi, which will make its Formula One debut this season after acquiring the Sauber team, unveiled its first-ever single-seater on Tuesday and declared its ambition to "win championships by 2030", reports AFP from Paris.

Ter Stegen leaves Barca

▸ For the first time in 12 years, Marc-Andre ter Stegen is set to represent a club other than Barcelona as he heads to Girona on loan for the rest of the season, reports AP from Girona, Spain.

Dragons hold nerve in shootout

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: Tamil Nadu Dragons edged past Ranchi Royals 4-2 in a dramatic shootout after the two sides were locked 3-3 at full time in a men's Hockey India League (HIL) match here on Wednesday.

While the Dragons claimed the bonus point for their shootout victory, the Royals did enough to secure second place on the points table, setting up a blockbuster Qualifier 1 clash against the Kalinga Lancers on Friday.

Hyderabad Toofans have also booked their place in the playoffs, while Soorma Hockey Club must win by a seven-goal margin in Thursday's clash against the SG Pipers to clinch the fourth playoff spot ahead of HIL GC.

Tom Boon struck twice for the Royals (9th, 35th), complementing Mandeep Singh's early opener in the first minute. The Dragons fought back through a brace from Blake Govers (24th, 53rd) and a goal from Karthi Selvam (32nd).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

WPL: Gujarat Giants vs UP Warriorz (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1**, **JioHotstar**.

U-19 World Cup: Zimbabwe vs Pakistan, Ireland vs Japan, West Indies vs South Africa (**1:00 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

Ranji Trophy: UP vs Jharkhand, Puducherry vs J&K, Gujarat vs Railways, (**Day 1, 9:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

1st ODI: Sri Lanka vs England (**2:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5**, **FanCode**.

3rd T20I: Afghanistan vs West Indies (**8 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

BADMINTON

Indonesia Masters: 2nd round (**7:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

Europa League: Bologna vs Celtic, Fenerbahce vs Aston Villa, PAOK vs. Real Betis (**11:15 pm**), AS Roma vs Stuttgart, Braga vs Nottingham, Nice vs Go Ahead Eagles, Rangers vs Ludogorets (**1:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

TENNIS

Australian Open: Day 5 (**5:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

HOCKEY

HIL: Soorma vs. SG Pipers (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

CRICKET FIRST T20I

India off the blocks in style

Abhishek smashes 84, Suryakumar finds form in 48-run defeat of NZ

NAGPUR, PTI

Abhishek Sharma's pyrotechnics followed a now familiar script with India out-batting New Zealand by 48 runs in the opening T20 International here on Wednesday.

Abhishek, who has made it a habit of lighting up the evenings in stadiums across the cricketing globe with his array of monstrous hits, smashed 84 off just 35 balls and was complemented well by Rinku Singh (44 not out off 20 balls) who applied the finishing touches in India's commanding score of 238 for 7 on a Jamtha shirtfront.

In reply, Glenn Phillips (78 off 40 balls) did indulge in some scary hitting in company of Mark Chapman (39 off 24 balls) as they added 79 off just seven overs but scoreboard pressure was such that they were eventually buried under a deluge of runs. New Zealand's final reply was 190 for 7 with Varun Chakravarthy (2/37) again picking up crucial wickets while Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya provided initial breakthroughs.

In the past 12 months, one format where Indian team has looked unbeatable is the shortest one and the primary reason being the 25-year-old Abhishek, whose Key Responsibility Area (KRA) in the T20 national team is to leave the opposition bowlers scared as well as scarred.

On the day, the world's top-ranked T20I batter showed no mercy while making the Black Cap fielders look like mere bystanders with eight towering sixes and five fours.

Abhishek's carefree hitting also helped his skipper Suryakumar Yadav (32 off 22 balls) get some runs although he was far from his best. But the young opener's attack at all costs gave his skipper a chance to play himself in during a 99-run stand off 47 balls for the third wicket.

Towards the end, Rinku Singh (44 not out off 20 balls) got to play an innings of substance after a long time with India ending their 20 overs in fantastic fashion.

For someone who nowadays can hardly put a foot wrong, it took Abhishek exactly five deliveries to set his eye in against Jacob Duffy (2/27 in 4 overs) before the first of his eight maximums came out of the closet. It was a lofted six into the sight screen.

In between, Sanju Samson (10) and Ishan Kishan (8) wasted opportunities and when Abhishek got his chance next time, there was no looking back.

Abhishek's USP is his tremendous bat-speed that he generates and New Zealand's attack didn't have any bowler of express pace to challenge the Punjab southpaw.

India's Abhishek Sharma clobbered a 35-ball 84 against New Zealand in the opening T20I in Nagpur on Wednesday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Samson c Ravindra b Jamieson	10
Abhishek c Jamieson b Sodhi	84
Kishan c Chapman b Duffy	8
S'kumar c Robinson b Santner	32
Pandya c Chapman b Duffy	25
Dube c&b Jamieson	9
Rinku (not out)	44
Axar c Mitchell b Clarke	5
Arshdeep (not out)	6
Extras (LB-1, W-14)	15
TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs)	**.....238**

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-27, 3-126, 4-149, 5-166, 6-185, 7-209.

Bowling: Duffy 4-0-27-2, Jamieson 4-0-54-2, Clarke 4-0-40-1, Sodhi 3-0-38-1, Phillips 1-0-20-0, Santner 3-0-37-1, Mitchell 1-0-21-0.

NEW ZEALAND

Conway c Samson b Arshdeep	0
Robinson c Dube b C'varthy	21
Ravindra c Abhishek b Pandya	1
Phillips c Dube b Axar	78
Chapman c Abhishek b C'varthy	39
Mitchell c sub b Dube	28
Santner (not out)	20
Clarke c Arshdeep b Dube	0
Jamieson (not out)	1
Extras (W-2)	2
TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs)	**.....190**

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-52, 4-131, 5-143, 6-189, 7-189.

Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-31-1, Pandya 2-0-20-1, Bumrah 3-0-29-0, Axar 3.3-0-42-1, Chakravarthy 4-0-37-2, Dube 3-0-28-2, Abhishek 0.3-0-3-0.

Result: India won by 48 runs.

Series: India lead 5-match series 1-0.

PoM: Abhishek Sharma

Second T20I: Jan 23 (Raipur).

T20 WC: ICC Board votes against BCB request

Bangladesh matches in India as scheduled

DUBAI, PTI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday rejected the request from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to shift its team's T20 World Cup fixtures to Sri Lanka, saying the matches will proceed as scheduled since there was no credible threat to the safety of Bangladesh players, officials or fans at any of the tournament venues in India.

The decision was taken at an ICC Board meeting held via video conference, which was convened to discuss the situation after the BCB raised concerns and sought a change in venues.

"The ICC Board noted that relocating matches under the present circumstances could jeopardise the sanctity of ICC events and undermine the organisation's neutrality as a global governing body," the ICC said in a statement.

According to the ICC, the Board reviewed multiple security assessments, including independent evaluations, all of which concluded that there was no credible threat to Bangladesh players.

ICC sources told PTI that out of 16 members, 14 voted against BCB's relocation request. The ICC has given BCB one more day to reflect and take a final position.

"Of all the members, only BCB and Pakistan voted in favour of the relocation request while all other voted against it. Bangladesh was given time till January 21 to confirm its participation but they have been given one more day by the ICC Board to state their position," said the ICC source.

The ICC also said that making changes to the schedule at such a late stage was not feasible and that altering fixtures in the absence of a verified security risk could set an "undesirable precedent" for future global events.

The world governing body said its management had held a series of meetings and correspondences with the BCB in recent weeks, sharing detailed information on the tournament's security arrangements.

These included venue-specific plans and assurances of layered protection involving federal and state law enforcement agencies.

An ICC spokesperson said the organisation had engaged in "sustained and constructive dialogue" with the BCB with the objective of ensuring Bangladesh's participation in the tournament.

"Independent security assessments, comprehensive venue-level security plans and formal assurances from host authorities consistently concluded that there is no credible or verifiable threat to the safety or security of the Bangladesh team in India," the spokesperson said.

Karnataka seek a strong restart

Agarwal's men host MP as Ranji Trophy resumes after white-ball events

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

As India's most prestigious domestic competition enters its second leg for the 2025-26 season, high-flying Karnataka would want to strengthen their grip at the top of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group B points table when they host Madhya Pradesh at the KSCA ground in Alur here from Thursday.

For Karnataka, who have been starved of a Ranji Trophy title for over a decade, it will be about building on recent red-ball success and trying to bring back the glory days of the past as the tournament slowly moves towards the knockout stages.

Given the current form of both teams, Karnataka will start as favourites to at least walk away with three points. However, if the surface is scratched with the strength of the teams on paper, the pendulum could swing either way, especially in a season that has seen some top teams struggle. And Karnataka would want to avoid that banana peel.

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal will be hoping to extend his white-ball form into the Ranji Trophy that resumes on Thursday. DH FILE PHOTO

On the batting front, Karun Nair will look to continue his stellar form, while top-order batters Mayank Agarwal and Devdutt Padikkal will be eager to resume where they left off in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Nair has been at the forefront of Karnatana's run to the top of their group with 21 points, scoring 602 runs at 103.33, including two hundreds and two fifties, with a highest score of 233.

Quality and consistency have put Nair back in the limelight, prompting questions about whether he deserved a longer rope with the Indian side, especially after their Test series loss to South Africa. On the other hand, Padikkal would be itching to get a big score, looking to build on his recent form.

Among others, skipper Agarwal will hope to carry his VHT momentum into red-ball cricket, having scored just 291 runs in seven innings this Ranji season.

Karnataka, however, will hope their openers fire in unison as both Aneesh KV and Nikin Jose have walked in and out of the eleven, having not made a big mark while partnering Agarwal.

The pressure for a good start will certainly be higher in the Madhya Pradesh game as their second-highest run-getter, Smaran R (595 runs), is out with injury.

While Karnataka will look to make the most of batting-friendly conditions here in Alur, it makes the bowlers' role all the more important.

While Vidwath Kaverappa has been a shadow of himself in both white-ball competitions, he has done fairly well in the Ranji Trophy, picking up 14 wickets at 15.92.

However, Karnataka's bowling has been heavily dependent on their spinners, with Shreyas Gopal (27), Mohsin Khan (12) and Shikhar Shetty (12) picking up 51 wickets between them.

DH has learnt that KL Rahul is yet to confirm his availability for the match on January 29 (Punjab) but Prasidh Krishna is available for selection. However, both will miss the game in Alur.

For Madhya Pradesh, who sit third on the table with 16 points, it is imperative that their batting order comes good collectively against a quality Karnataka attack.

Teams: Karnataka: Mayank Agarwal (c), Nikin Jose, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair, Shrijith KL, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Vidyadhar Patil, Vidwath Kaverappa, Abhilash Shetty, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, Kruthik Krishna, Aneesh KV, M Venkatesh.

Madhya Pradesh: Harsh Gawli, Yash Dubey, Shubham Sharma, Himanshu Mantri, Rajat Patidar, Venkatesh Iyer, Harpreet Singh, Sagar Solanki, Kumar Kartikeya, Saransh Jain, Adheer Pratap, Aryan Pandey, Anubhav Agarwal, Kuldeep Sen, Arshad Khan.

Other Group B fixtures: Maharashtra vs Goa, Saurashtra vs Punjab, Kerala vs Chandigarh.

KSCA goes full steam: Gate widening to holding areas

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gate widening, separate lines for women and children, holding areas for spectators, free metro rides for match-ticket holders, besides ramps and lifts, are some of the measures that the Karnataka State Cricket Association has undertaken to meet some of the short-term recommendations made in the Justice D'Cunha report.

The State government had placed a blanket ban on the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from holding big-ticket matches following the June 4 stampede that left 11 fans dead and several injured as the crowd went out of control during RCB victory celebrations.

After hectic parleys between the association's officials and the Expert Committee appointed by the Home Department to look into the implementation of D'Cunha recommendations, KSCA on Saturday obtained a conditional permission to host matches.

"We have to make changes in terms of widening the gates, creating holding areas and facilitating the entry of fire engines inside the ground. So, widening of a few stands was necessary," KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad said during a media meet here on Wednesday.

"We have given a whole booklet of the 3D drawings (of development works at the stadium) to the government. We have given them the timelines and everything. And as I said, once they were convinced about it, they issued us the conditional permission to host IPL and international matches," he added while setting themselves a February-end deadline to complete the short-term structural changes.

Giving a guided tour of the works they have undertaken, KSCA secretary Santosh Menon said one of the suggestions from the police is to have flat holding areas for spectators to avoid tripping and falling which could turn chaotic. "We will have just two gates on Queen's Road, each with a minimum of 6-metre width for entry of spectators to avoid traffic congestion," said Menon.

In all, there will be about 12 gates, including for members, around the stadium for entry of spectators, while there will be dedicated service gates like fire engines and police vans.

While KSCA doesn't have a full budget estimation for renovation, the gate-widening alone will cost around Rs 1.5 crore. There is also a possibility of a few trees within the premises being felled to carry out structural changes, and KSCA has already written to the forest department, seeking permission.

"As far as the fire safety is concerned, almost everything is done," said Menon. "There are a couple of more things to be done, which will take some time. They have also asked for 50,000 litres (of water) underground capacity, but they are okay with having an overhead tank as well.

"30,000 litres is already done, so we need to get 20,000 litres of water to it. That provision has to be done. From the BESCOM (state-run electricity supplier) part, everything is clear."

KSCA B ground, which earlier housed NCA, will be one of the holding areas for the crowd during match days. DH PHOTO

KEY CHANGES

- Widening of gates to a minimum of 6 metres to ensure smooth entry
- Separate lines for women and children
- Holding areas at various fans' entry gates to avoid crowding on roads
- Several existing structures will be flattened to create holding areas
- B ground, which housed NCA earlier, and tennis courts will also be utilised to hold the crowd
- Introducing ramps to various stands to ensure smooth passage

Paperless tickets

KSCA is mulling digitising the ticketing system to avoid the rush at counters and curb the selling of tickets in black.

Replying to a question, KSCA spokesperson Vinay Mruthyunjaya said: "There is discussion to introduce digital tickets. As it is, we have demolished the ticket-counters around the stadium, and the Managing Committee is contemplating issuing paperless tickets. This will also help document who bought tickets where."

KSCA to cease incomplete leagues

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Cricket Association has decided to end the 2024-25 season, which was yet to be completed, and the new season will commence from April 15.

"We have decided to cease all cricketing activities of last season, including the academy work and the tournaments, and we start afresh from April," said KSCA secretary Santosh Menon.

"Our season starts at the beginning of April; unfortunately, for reasons I don't want to elaborate, last year's season was pending. So, we have made a decision -- a very conscious call from the cricketers in the Cricket Advisory Committee, as well as the cricketers who are supporting us.

The CAC comprises Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Sunil Joshi, Vijay Bharadwaj and Jayashree Doraiswamy.

In the meantime, between March 1 and April 15, the KSCA will concentrate on backend work such as getting the grounds and wickets in shape, have refresher course for umpires, scorers, and video analysts, and having programmes for curators.

"The assurance from this committee as of today is that we will ensure that all tournaments, Group I and Group II, men and women, will be completed well in time (by about September 30) so that it doesn't overlap with the BCCI season, Menon added.

Mitchell takes the top spot

DUBAI, PTI: Indian superstar Virat Kohli was on Wednesday displaced from the top spot by New Zealand swashbuckler Daryl Mitchell in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batters following the latter's stupendous run of form in the just-concluded series.

New Zealand won the series 1-2, their first on Indian soil in the ODI format, to end a 37-year wait.

Mitchell scored two hundreds during the rubber.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com